



NOTRE ESPOIR • NUESTRA ESPERANZA • OUR HOPE

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE December 2013

Mary said “Yes” and the Word was made flesh. We Christians take this for granted now, but what a life changing event that was for Mary and for history. The Annunciation started a process that changed the world. It was about recognizing our humanity as holy. No longer was God an abstract power in the sky, but God became one of us. This meant sharing our human emotions, hungers, fears, and joys.

It was gradual, of course. One year merged into the next. Mary had to grow into understanding what it meant to be mother and bring Jesus to maturity. Jesus had to grow into understanding his mission to teach and to love us to the point of surrendering his life for us. Becoming human is what it is all about.

And what does being human mean in our own lives today? It means living with a changing body, relationships, and world that we cannot predict or control. Mary learned that change meant standing by her son in good times and in bad. Jesus learned that it meant moving from impressing the elders in the temple, to having them turn on him. Life happened and he had to deal with the changes around him. So too, our lives are about change and we try to cope.

- Our own bodies age – so slowly we can barely notice it.
- Our relationships change as we fall in and out of love, make commitments, and friends die.
- Our world changes. Wars erupt at least as often as natural disasters, and we become discouraged. Democracies rise and fall and what we used to think of as financial stability evaporates.

Yet we each know someone who has been a model for us of generosity and self-sacrifice. Immigrants teach us about patience beyond reason as they wait for justice. Activists spend their energy to make this world a better place. Will the feelings of hope outweigh our discouragement over selfishness and violence?

Our Founders saw that things had to change in their time and called for a new way of being Church—a Church of welcoming community. By his life, Pope Francis calls us to a new way of being Church—a Church of simplicity, humility, and joy. Certainly he has lived long enough to have seen the pitfalls of human nature, but he calls us to let go of judgment and anger and replace it with a deeper faith – a Faith of the Heart.

It all started with the Incarnation that changed the world and gave us a reason to hope. Today we hold tight to that hope despite many reasons to despair. Our faith is not in ourselves but in Jesus who shared our humanity in order to bring us home.



***Joyeux Noël a vous tous ! • Merry Christmas to all !
¡Feliz Navidad a todos!***

***-Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste
-World Council of the Marianist Family
-Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista***

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