

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

My experience at standing before the Crib.

I see the child Jesus. In him I see God who has lavished his generosity upon me; but when I looked at myself, I am ashamed to see a 'kindergarten' heart in an adult body. In him, I see a God who humbled himself to my human level. But I have been like a virtually empty vessel which rattles noisily the small coins it actually has. I see Mary. She is beautiful, on account of the goodness of her heart. Beauty without goodness is worse than wine and will intoxicate the holder and the beholder. I see St. Joseph. He is silent even when Mary is near. This silence is not the absence of sound but of self. Each has surrendered themselves to God in the manger. Our world regards silence as a deficiency. Therefore some radios, even on Christmas Eve, keep us awake until dawn playing 'Silent Night'.

I hear Mary telling Joseph, "I hear people's gossip about us, having a baby without living together as husband and wife." Joseph says "Don't worry, Mary. Worry never accomplishes anything, except wrinkles which gives another thing to worry about. Leave gossip alone; those who gossip are caught in their own mouth trap." Mary says, "God could have given us at least a cradle for the baby." Joseph says, "My dear, at least we have this crib. Some people are so poor that even cockroaches shun them. One advantage of being poor is that it does not cost much. And though those who sleep on the floor never fall out of bed, riches are not always blessings." Mary says, "Joseph, don't speak loudly; the baby is sleeping." Joseph says, "Yes, we mustn't disturb him. He sleeps so soundly even in poor swaddling clothes." Of course, man's conscience and not his mattress has most to do with his sleep. I touch the floor of the crib. It is very cold. We people have become so cold towards one another that God has become a human being to warm us up. Often, we are neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm and a lukewarm Christian makes a good bench warmer although a poor heart warmer. I kiss the feet of the child Jesus. All the legislation in the world cannot abolish kissing. The word 'kiss' was invented by poets to rhyme with bliss. So when I kiss Jesus, I kiss the eternal bliss, but I must take care that I do not kiss as Judas did. Merry Christmas! I wish you a Christmas full of joy and peace.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CCD - Catholic Christian Disciples

Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad! O God, in the silence of her being Mary gave flesh to your Word. Teach us to listen and to respond in love and truth, so that we, too may be bearers of divine life. (Psalter Week II FSPA).

I have often prayed at Christmas to Mary - O Mary, just as the Holy Spirit overshadowed you that you might bring forth Christ in your soul and body, ask the Holy Spirit to over shadow me that I might bring forth Christ in my soul and body.

I pray in thanksgiving and my heart fills with love for the generosity shown me this Christmas with cards and gifts. God bless each and everyone of you in our Cluster of Parishes. I am happy to be working with our priest, Fr. Lourdu, with our staff, with the teachers and students, and all of you. May God bless you in your life and fill your Christmas with joy and peace.

Happy New Year!

~ Sr. Marianna



OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,488.00
Loose	2 21.00
Total	1 ,709.00
Total from December 18, 2016	1,277.00
Building Fund	1 60.00
Immaculate Conception	1 0.00
Christmas Flowers	100.00
Christmas	1 00.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 480.00
Loose	1 02.00
Total	5 82.00
Total from December 18, 2016	6 31.00
Building Fund	10.00
Christmas Flowers	1 0.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 673.20
Loose	1 28.40
Total	8 01.60
Total from December 18, 2016	1 ,417.00
Immaculate Conception	20.00
Building Fund	1 0.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 175.00
Loose	1 99.00
Total	3 74.00
Total from December 18, 2016	2 78.00
Building Fund	6.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)

2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 3,420.00	\$ 7,759.00
St. John	\$ 8,721.00	\$ 1,790.00	\$ 6,931.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,249.00	\$ 2,315.00	\$ 2,934.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,509.00	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 539.00

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OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

BROADWAY THEATRE
 Hwy 64 west side of Medford
 For movies & showtimes visit
 medfordmovies.com or call 715.748.5556
**CLIP THIS COUPON - Purchase any size popcorn
 and get matching soda for \$1**
Expires 01/31/2018

Contribution Envelopes for 2018 are available in the church entrances. If you didn't find a box for you, and you would like to have one, please contact the office.