

Companions on the Journey

June 2, 2019

In the Peace of Christ,
Msgr. McHenry

Dear Friends in Christ,

At Christmas each year we read from the Gospel of John that “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The Word here refers to the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Also referred to as the Son of God. Also known as God’s Beloved Son.

Our Catholic faith depicts something of the inner life of God who is responsible for all of creation as well as all of redemption. Redemption is necessary because we human beings chose not to trust the Lord, chose to take what had not been given instead of receiving gratefully what God had provided, disobeying what God had asked us not to do. The effect of that original sin was expulsion from the Garden of Eden and access to the Tree of Life. And that is when death entered the world and that is why death entered the world. But not forever.

God had a rescue plan up the divine sleeve in case there was mistrust, selfishness and disobedience. That plan involved the Incarnation, the enfleshment of God’s only begotten Son. Why that? So that the Son would take on everything we take on including death, go into the realm of the dead and lead out into new life all those who strove to live a good life. The Son needed a body to accomplish this and that is why he was conceived of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin, Mary.

Jesus undergoes this horrendous death by crucifixion and literally bleeds out on the cross. His death is our ransom from death. Jesus rises from the grave and beckons to all of us to follow after him. But where is Jesus now? He has returned to his Father in heaven, to the One who sent him on mission to restore original innocence and renew the face of the earth. He has ascended to the Father. There was this grand reunion in the kingdom of God. And now there is something new in the Godhead—it is the humanity of Christ, the humanity of us all.

But that is not the end. Once reunited with the Father they breathe their very Spirit upon our world. The Holy Spirit, the Uniting Spirit, the Living Spirit of Love. That Spirit is bestowed upon us. That Spirit is poured out on us. That Spirit is the necessary ingredient for us to be able to cooperate with God’s grace in each moment because God’s own Spirit indwells my soul and your soul. That Spirit is necessary for us to have if we would believe in Christ and seek to follow after him. That Spirit empowers us. Without the Spirit we would be lost, impotent, and unable to live the way of Jesus even if we wanted to do so. But we are not without the Spirit. That Love has been poured out. The result of the Homecoming of the Son is that the world can be renewed by the Spirit of the Living God.