

Daughters of Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope



The Canticle of Simeon

Now dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, in peace, according to Thy word: For mine own eyes hath seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light to reveal Thee to the nations and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Christmas 2011

Newsletter Seven



Courtesy www.PersonalizedHolyCards.com

O Come let us adore Him!

Dear Mishpoca (the Yiddish way to say family ☺),

What do you think? It took us 11 months - between last Christmas (when we left St. Louis) and last month when we at last were able to mail our first newsletter from Tulsa and with its thrilling contents of the ceremony of the "Rite of Clothing of the Holy Habit" with Bishop Edward Slattery and Father Mark Daniel Kirby. We are still basking in the beauty and happiness of that glorious day.

Now, only one month later, you are receiving our second newsletter of 2011. How could I let pass this most glorious season of the year without thanking you with all my heart for your share in this most thrilling venture for our King and His Kingdom? Oh the ceaseless wonder of the coming of the long-expected Messiah - of He who is eternal yet entered time; He who is Spirit, yet became Man; He who is the Creator of all that is, who created the Woman from whom He would take flesh and blood, in the fullness of time, and in fulfillment of all that the prophets spoke - for us, for us, for us - that we may live with Him *forever*.

Never does a Christmas approach that I do not recall my distress when, as a Jewish young woman, I would "happen upon" manger scenes in store windows and church lawns. It was impossible *not* to happen upon them - they were everywhere - and often surrounded by Christmas shoppers, sundry on-lookers, and parents pointing out "that Child." How, on earth, I would question interiorly, could any responsible parent allow his or her child to worship a baby, a man, a human being?

I loved the lights, the warmth, the beauty that seemed to permeate the very air in New York City at Christmas. I recall longing for meaning, for purpose, for a reason for our existence and the *hope* that tugged at my heart at the sound of Salvation Army bells, and the sense of a mysterious wonder that seemed to make all of mankind one - even for a season. But a *man* - in the form of a child - no. God alone was to be worshipped.

Oh the day when that Child, that *Man*, flooded my heart - when the reality of Who that Baby was utterly captured my being and changed my life forever. I remember hearing - for the first time - words to a familiar hymn that I had heard countless Christmases before: "*Joy to the world, the Lord has come.*" I stood frozen: "*The LORD has come*"??? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has come?? *That Baby in the manger?* The song *always* said that?

I don't think I'll ever get over it. Nor will I get over the moment, 18 years later when that same God was placed on my tongue in the Blessed Sacrament the night I entered the full measure of Judaism and Christianity in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church for which that Baby came to die.

Mother Miriam, how is it that the Jewish people for the most part do not believe that He came? It was them who gave the Messiah to the world!

It is a difficult and heartbreaking situation, dear Zelda. I cannot say why some or even many do not believe. I don't think I'll ever get over the fact that I *do* believe. Why is it that the God of all creation chose to shower His grace upon *me*, upon *us*? Faith is a gift. Yet *evidence* of the Messiah's coming and of His deity fills all of Scripture. On the page to the right is part of a study I did a few years ago comparing the titles and acts of God in the Old Testament with the titles and acts of Jesus in the New. They are one and the same. Jesus is God, the Messiah who came *through* and *for* the Jewish people, in order that salvation might come to the *whole world*.

How can we help our friends to see who Jesus is? There are so many without hope, especially it seems at Christmas-time.

Yes, I know, dear Zelda. Remembering my own painful years without the Savior, I relate deeply to such feelings of despair and hopelessness. The best way I know to help an unbelieving world is to be Christ to them, to reach out to every soul with the love of God and the truths of our blessed faith, to so live that our lives preach the Gospel always, even, in the words of Saint Francis, without a word.

May we be messengers of hope - happy, joy-filled, grateful sons and daughters of our Father in Heaven, sheep who follow the Shepherd of our souls - from the manger to the Cross to the world He came to save.

Can you tell us, even briefly, what has happened since September 8 when you received your habit? Is the Priory construction going well? How are the Sisters doing?

All is going well, blessed be God. We'll begin construction in our basement for four additional cells for new sisters in two weeks! We have a small army of volunteers helping with the labor, though we are still in need of most of the \$130,000 included in our newsletter last month. Confident that our Lord will provide, we are moving full steam ahead! In the interim, we continue to walk the streets and reach out

to the many souls who approach us. Just yesterday, we past a gentleman while grocery shopping. His eyes filled with tears at the sight of our full habits. He choked out the words, "You just took me down Memory Lane, *big time*. Wow!"

May the God who came to earth supply us with all that is needed to flood the world *big time*. May He bless you and use you beyond all you could ask or think in sharing His love with those closest to you and with all you meet this Christmas and throughout the New Year. A blessed Christmas to you all with our deepest gratitude and endless prayers,

Mother Miriam of the Lamb of God, O.S.B.



Father Tim Davison assisted by Father Angelo Van der Putten, FSSP, celebrating the first Holy Mass at the Priory of Our Lady of Guadalupe



A lamb meets Mother at the Tulsa zoo!

The Child born in Bethlehem, in the fullness of time, is GOD, God come to earth – *for us.*

Spoken by or of God in the Old Testament	Title/Act of God	Spoken by or of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, in the New Testament
“The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.” (Is. 40:28)	Creator	“. . . all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.” (John 1:3)
“I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.” (Isaiah 43:11)	Savior	“. . . we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” (John 4:42)
“The LORD kills and brings to life; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.” (1 Sam. 26:6)	The One who Raises the Dead	“For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.” (John 5:21)
“Let the nations bestir themselves, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the nations round about.” (Joel 3:12)	Judge	“For as the Father has life in himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of man.” (John 5:27)
“The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.” (Isaiah 60:19)	Light	“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” (John 8:12)
“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO AM.’” (Exodus 3:14)	I AM	“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’” (John 8:58)
“I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other . . .” (Isaiah 42:8)	Glory of God	“Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made.” (John 17:5)
“Hearken to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am He, I am the first, and I am the last. “ (Isaiah 48:12)	The First and the Last	“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore . . .” (Revelation 1:17)
“Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your destruction?” (Hosea 13:14)	Redeemer	“. . . and they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy art Thou to take the scroll and to open its seals, for Thou wast slain and by Thy blood didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation . . .’” (Revelation 5:9)
“For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.” (Isaiah 62:5)	Bridegroom	“And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband . . .” (Revelation 21:2)
“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in Whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” (Psalm 18:2)	Rock	“. . . and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:4)
“And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jeremiah 31:34)	Forgiver of Sins	“Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mark 2:7)
“Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him, all his Host!” (Psalm 148:2)	Worshipped by Angels	“And again, when He brings the first-born into the world, He says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship Him.’” (Hebrews 1:6)
“Let them praise the name of the LORD! For He commanded and they were created.” (Psalm 148:5)	Creator of Angels	“. . . for in Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--all things were created through Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16)
Throughout the Old Testament	Addressed in Prayer	“And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’” (Acts 7:59)
“By myself I have sworn, from My mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.’” (Isaiah 45:23)	Confessed as Lord	“. . . that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:10)

The Nativity

O Blessed Mary and dearest Joseph, allow me to journey with you to Bethlehem. I am a lowly pilgrim making my way to the center of history, the center of the universe: the birth of Christ the Lord. With unspeakable awe and expectant wonder I long to behold the promised Messiah.

Time will stand still, forever divided by the entry of the Creator into His creation. What joy to my eyes to see His adorable face. What joy to my ears to hear His soft cries. My heart is overcome with delight to see the splendor of God now truly alive in human flesh. For by God's infinite humility and kindness we now know Emmanuel, God with us. This dear infant at rest in a feeding trough will become the food for mankind, redeeming the world and nourishing each soul that receives Him. Both shepherd and lamb recognize Him as one of their own. For this Child will lead many into the green pastures of deathless Paradise by becoming the slain Shepherd, the sacrificial Lamb of God. By the light of a great star above, I see His precious eyes begin to open. He who is Light of Light now sees with eyes of flesh that star's gentle lumen. My heart is prostrate before Him and I have but one sorrow: I am poor, bereft of fitting treasures for this newborn King.

And so I lay before Him the gift of my life, though even that be His own gift to me. O sweet Christ, Author of Life, accept my heart as gift born of Gift. O Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Amen

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"...the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)



"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You....

For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace

There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment

and justice

From that time forward, even forever."

(Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)



But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

though you are little among the thousands of

Judah,

yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Therefore He shall give them up, until the time

that she who is in labor has given birth;

then the remnant of His brethren shall return to

the children of Israel. And He shall stand and

feed His flock in the strength of the Lord...."

(Micah 5:2-4)



Arise, shine; For your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,

and deep darkness the people;

But the Lord will arise over you,

and His glory will be seen upon you.

The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." (Isaiah 60:1-3)