

# My Christmas Joy

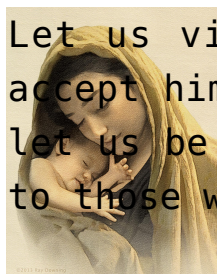
***“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Lk.2:10-12).***

I am fascinated always with the picture of the nativity (*the Belen*) every Christmas season. And my attention is always centered on the infant Jesus lying in a manger. This is so because I oftentimes ask how difficult it is for a mother to deliver her son in just a manger and also for an infant to survive in a cold place prepared for animals. It is for me an unusual situation. However, what I find amazing about it is that the nativity scene keeps on drawing people. I observe that people are coming to pray seriously in front of it. They later touch and kiss the baby Jesus. And they will pose for a picture with it and go. And then here comes another group with the same purpose of venerating the Belen. And it seems to me that the Belen has the power that invites the people.

Then later in my seminary years it dawned on me the implication of the simplicity of the person of Jesus as well as of his family. Jesus' birth in a manger is very meaningful especially in his being the Savior of the world. He has a lot to tell us in his simple birth. And these messages are at all times applicable for us his people. And if these messages are given the chance to penetrate into the hearts of all then they will produce joy that nothing compares. And one of the many messages that I learn and love most from the birth of Jesus is the message of simplicity. He is communicating simplicity in his birth reminding the people that life is not complicated. Life is meant to be simple. His birth in a manger reminds the people to live a life away from the many dangerous ambitions. This is very striking for all for oftentimes there is the

tendency for the humanity to dream for a life beyond reach. Jesus only has his swaddling clothes we also have contented on simple things we have.

Jesus in a manger is destined to save the humanity. This message is giving me so much joy that in spite of my limitations I have my Savior who holds me and keeps me in his care. He is giving me hope especially in my trying moments. He serves as my light in the midst of my darkness in life. And he invites me to give hope also to those who find life meaningless. I should be hope for others.



Let us visit and venerate the baby Jesus in a manger and accept him as the most special gift given to us. Then in turn let us be gifts for others by sharing what we have especially to those who are in need. This is my Christmas joy.

This act of goodness and generosity especially to the needy is much appreciated, for this speaks of the child Jesus in a manger as gift for the world. When we give gifts, we give the being of Jesus that we have received to others. And there is always that joy in sharing gifts.

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