

Christmas Day Homily

“The Word Became Flesh... in Us”

Today’s Gospel takes us far beyond the manger. St. John brings us back to the very beginning — before Bethlehem, before creation — to remind us who this Child truly is.

“In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God.”

The Child born today did not begin today. He is eternal. He is God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.

And then John gives us the heart of Christmas in one line: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

God became one of us. Not in appearance or imagination — truly one of us.

The Fathers of the Church said God vouchsafed to save us — meaning He stooped down, He lowered Himself in mercy, He came close enough to touch, to suffer, to lift us up.

And why did He come so close? John tells us: “To all who received Him... He gave power to become children of God.”

This is the purpose of Christmas. Christ did not come simply to teach us — He came to change us, to give us His own life, His grace, His holiness.

The Council of Trent puts it beautifully: Christ must not only be born in Bethlehem — He must be born in us. Because we do not reach Heaven by passing a theological exam. We reach Heaven because God’s sanctifying grace is alive in our hearts.

And whether you are here every Sunday, or visiting family, or returning after some time away — the message is the same: Christ came for you. He desires to dwell in your heart. His grace is offered freely to all who welcome Him.

So, on this Christmas Day, let us ask for the spiritual nativity — that the Word who became flesh may take root in our souls, push back our darkness, heal what is wounded, and make us true children of God.

Amen.

Merry Christmas, Everyone!