

Comitium allocutio 18.12.22

Capacity to love

In our faith life we are often talking about things beyond our intellectual grasp, for example, discussing the love of God for us, or what it is like to live a sinless life, or what Our Lady must have felt on the first Christmas night.

We can use a little imagination, but we can only scratch the surface of some of these mysteries. We see enough to know that there is more we do not know.

Yet we can at least grasp the central idea behind each mystery.

We know that Christmas, for instance, is primarily about the Saviour of the world coming into our midst. And while there is much we may not understand, we know that His coming is a very good thing to happen, and something worth celebrating.

As Legionaries we put all our trust in Mary to help us respond the best way to whatever God is revealing to us, or asking from us.

When we pray to her we are asking for a greater share of her intense love for God.

If she is the sun we are candles, by comparison. We cannot shine like she does, but we can always grow in our capacity to love, and this is our lifelong quest.

When Mary prays she is so focused on God that no distraction could move her from that state. We find it much harder to pray without distractions, but as we join in her prayer we will find we can pray with a greater intensity.

The Mother gazed on the newborn Child, and expressed great love for Him, not only as any baby is to be loved, but because she knew this was the Saviour of the world, and therefore a lot more important.

Her recognition of Christ's importance enables us to grow in our response.

If we were ever indifferent to His coming it will never be so again. We will welcome Him, seek Him, adore Him.

The angels knew enough to be singing in joy. The shepherds must have sensed the uniqueness of this event. Even the animals must have felt something!

It is a mystery but a very happy one. The more we celebrate it the more good effect it will have on us.

Who can hold grudges, or be mean-spirited when confronting such purity and goodness as emanate from Bethlehem?

We leave our sins behind, as we allow ourselves to be drawn into the new ways that Jesus and Mary will show us.

O come, let us adore Him...