

## ***The Divine Power of the Mystery of Christmas***

***"Ecce Maria genuit nobis Salvatorem, quem Joannes videns exclamavit, dicens: Ecce Agnus Dei, ecce qui tollit peccata mundi, alleluia!"***

***"Behold, Mary has generated a Savior for us, Whom John seeing exclaimed, saying: Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world, alleluia!"***

***-Antiphon in Lauds for the Octave of Christmas***

The Octave of the Nativity of the Word Incarnate closes the Year of Our Lord 2020. This year has seen an overwhelming diversity of evils, much deceit and corruption, suffering and loss. However, 2020 A.D. remains the "Year of Our Lord". Christ remains King and Lord no matter what rebellious and sinful creatures do, and He truly is the unique and sole "Savior of the world" (John 4:42).

**Christmas is not chiefly about material goods and it is not a sentimental fantasy but a powerful divine reality.** Through the richness of the Church's liturgy throughout Christmastide, our minds and hearts are presented with the mystery of God the Word assuming our poor mortal human nature for our salvation and ultimate healing in both soul and body. As individuals and society in the Church and in the civil realm, our trials and sufferings, our pains and sorrows, our wounds and even our mortality are not foreign to the Incarnate Word. He is the Savior, and He is the true Remedy. For us fallen descendants of Adam and Eve, Christmas is therefore the manifestation of God's saving response to the real evils we suffer in a fallen world. It is the entrance of a powerful God into our human weakness and brokenness.

***"For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man..."***

***-The Nicene Creed***

Therefore, an authentic and fruitful celebration of Christmas is based on the **prayerful contemplation and adoration of the incarnate Son of God**, Who has come to save those who believe in Him and are united to Him through the sanctifying grace and divine love in the communion of His Mystical Body, the Church. In

order to **personally receive and spiritually appropriate this divine grace** that has mercifully dawned upon us through Christ's Nativity in our flesh, we should offer our hearts to Him in faith, loving meditation, and silent adoration, presenting to Him, Who is rejected by sinners, the spiritual abode of our poor souls. **Although He comes to us in our poverty, He is not poor in Himself.** In the admirable exchange of Divinity and Humanity in Christ, in His divine Person that has wedded to Himself our poor and lowly *human nature* so as to elevate it in His *divine* blessedness and glory—we are enriched by receiving that poor Baby that is God. Through devout prayer and persevering meditation, we can gradually discover in Christ, silently dwelling in our souls, that divine Light that unfailing shines even amidst the darkness of suffering in the world and in our lives. This divine light alone can bring true joy to the world and peace to those of goodwill: **it is the dawn of the day of full and everlasting redemption, the light of Heaven, and the refulgence of eternal glory.**

*"That which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost. She shall bring forth a son: and thou shalt call His name Jesus. For **He shall save his people from their sins.** Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which the Lord spoke by the prophet, saying: Behold a virgin shall be with child, and bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us.**"*

*-Matthew 1:20-23*

Adoring our divine Savior with Our Lady and St. Joseph, know of our community's prayers and sacrifices for your intentions! Have a blessed Christmas!

*"Who cannot recognize in Christ his own infirmities?...In such a way did the only-begotten Son of God become also Son of Man, as to lack neither all the reality of Manhood, nor the fulness of Godhead."*

*-St. Leo the Great*

**Give Your Alms this Christmas Season**

# The Foundation of the Hermits of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Fairfield

**The Hermits of Our Lady of Mount Carmel operate no regular business, humbly relying upon the charitable alms of the faithful to materially accommodate and provide for an abundance religious and priestly vocations in our community. So, please remember our spiritually rich but materially poor community in your weekly or monthly tithing and your annual charitable giving, thus **establishing your spiritual legacy by partaking in our vital spiritual mission in the heart of the Church** and helping us to build our monastery in Fairfield and our next foundation elsewhere in the country, so that many more souls may find lasting spiritual benefit in this life and eternal salvation in Christ!**

*If you shop on Amazon, you can set the Hermits of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as your preferred charity on Amazon Smile by [clicking here](#). Then, each time you shop, instead of going to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), start your shopping by going to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and a portion of the proceeds will benefit our community and our vocations.*

*Through our partnership with [FreeWill](#), it is now easier than ever to make a charitable promise to the Hermits of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in your will. Please consider [establishing your spiritual legacy](#) by sustaining our mission for generations to come!*

*We thank all of our devoted weekly and monthly donors, as well as those who have kindly made one-time gifts to support the spiritual mission of this religious community. You truly share in the merits of our spiritual labors! We assure you of our daily prayers and sacrifices in gratitude for your loving support that is bearing "fruit that endures" (John 15:16).*

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