



We Must Focus on The Babe in The Manger!

By Marge Loenser

To be creative we need inspiration. The greatest source of inspiration comes from the Holy Spirit. As I seek His guidance now, I write this despite a great sadness I carry because someone I love is desperately ill. I believe God wants us to give of ourselves even when it's difficult. Isn't that what Jesus did? So, as He leads me, I will write.

We are already in Advent. In Latin advent means "coming." Yes, yes, "Santa Claus *is* coming to town! "But to paraphrase Jesus, "But there is someone greater than Santa here!" You couldn't prove it by our secular world. But just imagine! Our Heavenly Father loved us so much that He Sent His Son to this earth, to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, to be born fully human and divine, to make a bridge for us to cross from our sinful world to eternity. Now, *that* is the greatest Christmas present! Christ Himself, present to us!

On the 12th we celebrate the great feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531 the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego three times and requested he ask the bishop to build a church on Tepeyac Hill. To finally convince the bishop, Our Blessed Mother had Juan gather roses in his cloak (or tilma,) and when the roses tumbled out to the floor in front of the bishop, the beautiful picture of our Lady of Guadalupe was etched on the tilma! It's still there in Mexico City to see!

Because of the pandemic most of us are not sure how or *if* we will be sharing Christmas with our families. This surely is a great sacrifice. More than ever, we must focus on the Babe in the manger. His parents were not sure of what was coming or where they would go next, either. God however, always in the present moment, always full of love and joy sent angels to announce the Holy Birth and nevertheless, Gloria's rang out thru the hills of Bethlehem and shepherds came to adore Him!

Let me leave you with this little poem I wrote:

'Twas the evening of Christmas and all thru the night
Dwelt this sweet gentle silence and the brightness of light!
Shepherds were startled by angels on high,
And were told of a Babe born in Bethlehem nigh.
Hosanna, come see the Messiah promised from old
All wrapped in cloth to keep from the cold!
Dear Mary and Joseph knelt by his side,
While shepherds looked on with eyes opened wide!
We adore You; we adore You sweet Baby King
For to our hearts, peace and salvation You bring!!
God bless us everyone! Merry Christmas.

Love, Marge



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