

"Reflections- A Holy Christmas" December 25, 2020

Christmas Vespers - 2020; I am so thankful for this holy day. I am thankful for family, for faith, and my formation. I pray this night as a part of Vespers – “O God, you came into human life to save us from ourselves; come again! Thank you for your holy presence in our lives. Bless the night and be especially with all those in need”.

Reflecting on this holy season of Christmas I turned to some of my Journal and Facebook postings of the past few years. I want to share again from several years a spiritual journey through the real 12 Days of Christmas (not radio or advertising days before our nostalgic and cultural observance), but the liturgical days of Christmas from December 25 - January 6 – “A Holy Christmas”.

Especially this year of 2020 – a pandemic, racial/caste injustices, and a historic time of elections & our democracy tested and challenged. Days and nights of a pandemic have become more contemplative and reflective.

My annual rant and concern at Christmas time is that our secular, cultural, and “nostalgic” Christmas builds up through television and the marketplace to the “12 days of Christmas” (or even 24 on the TV) and December 25 comes along; and, you hear the voices, have the feelings – “it’s over!”

These many months of the pandemic pushed us all to “need a little Christmas” as sung in the popular musical, Mame. And certainly, none of us can be faulted for the decorating and longing for the nostalgia. It has been a challenging time for us – COVID, deaths, racial/caste tensions, and a historic time of elections and democracy challenged. Now, a holy Christmas really begins. It is a time of contemplation and reflection!

The Twelve Days of Christmas (and I am not singing the song) have just begun. My spiritual goal for these special holy days is to share my reflections. I *begin* with Christmas evening, and then each day of Christmas during my regular prayers I hope to reflect on this holy season. Thank you, God, for becoming one of us – for the gift of salvation through your gift of Jesus!"

I invite you to join me in observing and reflecting on “A Holy Christmas” for the next 12 days!

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