



Angel Whispers

Benedictine Sisters of Clear Creek

Winter 2014

Dum medium silentium tenerent Omnia et nox in suo cursu medium iter haberet, omnipotens Sermo tuus, Domine, de coelis a regalibus sedibus venit.

While all things were in quiet silence and the night was in the midst of her course, Thy almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down from heaven from Thy royal throne.

-Wisdom 18:14-15

Dear Family and Friends of the Clear Creek Sisters,

This is the season for preparation. Everyone it seems is busy, busy, busy getting ready for Christmas – shopping, baking, decorating. So, what is the reason we are so immersed in all this activity? Are we preparing for the coming of Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity incarnate? Are we recalling with much anticipation His birth in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago? Do we welcome Him into our hearts daily in Holy Communion? Are we prepared for His Second Coming when He comes in great glory and power to judge the living and the dead whenever that will be? As a priest said, “It is not when we live but how we die,” that is if we die in the state of grace we will enjoy unending happiness for all eternity.

At this time of Advent it is good for us to remind ourselves that this mystery of Christ’s coming is both simple and threefold. It is simple because it is the one same Son of God that is coming. It is threefold because the Son of God comes to us in three different ways and at three separate times. St. Bernard tells us that “in the first coming He comes in the flesh and in weakness; in the second He comes in spirit and in power; and in the third, He comes in glory and in majesty.”

Jesus came the first time as a little Baby, “at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.” The second coming is when He comes to us in our souls in Sanctifying Grace, in the Holy Eucharist. He has said that if we love Him, He will come to us and will abide with us. The third coming will be when He comes to judge the living and the dead, judging all things with justice. In the first coming, Jesus comes as a lamb; in the last, as a lion; and in the second, which is now for us, He comes as the most loving of friends, but He comes in silence.

This is opposed to the shopping rush, to the countless “Christmas parties” BEFORE the birth of Our Savior, to the hectic activities inundating so many. While it is true we need to prepare materially for the great feast of Jesus’ birthday, more importantly we need to ready our souls and spirits in order to welcome Him as He deserves. It is possible – and necessary – to do both, i.e., prepare materially and spiritually. The key is to do the former in peace and tranquility.



Father Abbot and many people came to our annual boutique before Advent



The Nashville Dominican Sisters honored us with a visit



We contemplatives treasure the gift of solitude and silence especially at this time, of listening in our hearts to God speaking to each of us. We are reminded that: “You must be silent. Then God will be born in you, utter His Word in you and you shall hear it; but be very sure that if you speak, the Word will have to be silent. The way to serve the Word is to keep silent and listen. If you go out, he will most surely come in; as much as you go out for him he will come into you...” (John Tauler, O.P.) God tells us in Psalm 45: “Be still and know that I am God...” We read in St. John of the Cross: “...and with delightful tranquility, for the knowledge of God is received in divine silence.” Finally, from Dom Delatte we learn that:

***The fundamental purpose of silence is to free the soul, to give it strength and leisure to adhere to God...
It sets us little by little, in a serene region, where we are able to speak to God and hear His voice.***

*adorabo ad templum sanctum tuum
I adore at Thy holy temple...*



*...in silence and contemplation before
the Most Blessed Sacrament*

“Contemplative prayer” says St. Teresa of Avila “in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him Who we know loves us.” To assist us and anyone who wishes to take advantage of the opportunity to develop a deep friendship with God, we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Tabernacle every First Friday in our Oratory from 2:30 to 5:30 pm. Following this we depart to the Abbey for Vespers and Benediction. We invite all who are able to come to spend some quiet time, listening to “the still small Voice” of God.

As our gift to you in appreciation for your loyalty and your moral, spiritual, material and financial support we offer our annual Christmas “Novena” (which starts on November 30 through December 25, a copy of the prayer is printed in the enclosed Christmas card) and our Midnight Mass for all your intentions. Please remember us in your prayers, that we grow in holiness and become saints.

A most grace-filled Advent and a very blessed and holy Christmas and New Year! May the Christ Child and His Holy Mother smile on you!

In Conspectu Angelorum,

Sister Annuntiata, prioress

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