

In the Heartland

December 2011

Christmas Extended Anew Through Us

The birth of Jesus transformed human history from the bleak prospect of being estranged from God to one filled with hope of eternal relationship characterized by love with a personal God.

What has been revealed through the Incarnation – God made man – is that God creates each person in his image and likeness – totally precious to Him – with an eternal destiny. In addition, the remarkable reality is that He has invited us, the beneficiaries of His creative energies, to be co-creators with Him.

The partnership with God occurs most dramatically in the union of husband and wife who in the expression of mutual love procreate children who join God's family. Transmission of God's life, is extended also in expressions of charity and compassion in which God is able to be born in others through the instrumentality of his presence fully alive in us. This is what is meant when it is said that God is born again and again through our service and love for others. Each time this happens, Christmas takes place once again.

One such instance of Christ being born anew was brought to my attention recently by a senior at Dowling Catholic High School by the name of David Cordaro. David works at a local Hy-Vee food store. He is an individual who has developed a reverence for life and the inestimable value of each person. For him, human life is a sacred trust and calls for safeguarding it from the moment of conception to natural death. In a letter to me he wrote: "I truly believe that life is the most important thing we have, and protecting it is our most important job."

Last year an incident challenged and roused to action David's deeply held convictions. In his own words: "While bagging someone's groceries in June of '10, I noticed they had Planned Parenthood cloth bags. After my shift, upset, I came home, designed and ordered 100 pro-life cloth bags. Within the first two weeks, they had completely sold out, and now, more than 1,400 have sold nationwide! The profits from the bags stay local and go to the pro-life organizations in the Des Moines area. Please pray for the unborn."

David Cordaro's story demonstrates how value and conviction are turned into action and have an impact on others. They are able to come to a realization of God's direction through our witness. From my perspective, David is to be commended for taking appropriate steps. Those who are interested in supporting and joining David in his undertaking can do so at:

ProLife bags.Des Moines
www.prolifebags.blogspot.com

davidcordaro@hotmail.com

As we reflect upon Christmas, we recognize once again that the Christmas story is prolonged through the ages by our commitment to Evangelization, namely, making Jesus Christ known and loved in our time by choosing to live out the Gospel at every moment. May we seize the present opportunity to commit ourselves to this task and choose to communicate in ways that open eyes to Gospel truth.

I extend to all in our diocesan community heartfelt best wishes for a Merry Christmas. It is my prayer that the New Year will be filled with abundant blessings for all of our families and parish communities.