

Christmas

December 25, 2018

by

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Archdiocese of Washington

My brothers and sisters, Knight's and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, on this Solemnity of our Lord's Nativity, I greet you with the song of the angels that first Christmas Day: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to those on whom his favor rests. We give glory to God for He is infinitely good, loving, kind and merciful. In response to the ancient sin of Adam He prepared His people, and in the fullness of time sent His only begotten son to us as a baby, the Prince of Peace.

It is the nature of love to give of oneself to the beloved. So the Heavenly Father, in order to reveal the depths of His love gave of Himself in an unthinkable way. He sent His eternal Son in human flesh to save us. God made Himself vulnerable to us by entrusting His Son to the human race. He did this knowing full well that we would not be able to reciprocate that love. In fact He knew that Jesus would be rejected, mocked, beaten and killed. And that's precisely why He did it. It's the vulnerability of His incarnate love that demonstrates His affection, love and mercy. It's His vulnerable love that gives us the confidence to turn to Him even with the most wounded aspects of our lives.

The loving vulnerability of the Father seeks expression in the heart of every believer. It's not easy to extend ourselves in situations where we may be rejected. But as a follower of Jesus it is precisely these situation that manifest His Heart. This Christmas Day our Lord invites us to give His love to those who most desperately need it. He invites us to put away grievances of the past and to be peacemakers. His invites us into his own vulnerable love in order to manifest His life saving glory.

My God Bless you and your families on this glorious Christmas Day.