

## Welcoming Jesus Christ as King

I.

A. Video about 40 million girls aborted in India. 1 million females/year, 50,00/month.

"It is just that the more educated and sophisticated we become, the more educated and sophisticated our ways of getting the girl eliminated becomes." (Dr. Mitu Korana, pediatrician in India; India's Deadly Secret, ABCnews.com)

B. The United States:

1. 1.2 million abortion/year in the U.S. 52 million since Roe v. Wade in 1973.

2. 45% of all marriages end in divorce.

3. 671 billion for the national defense budget for 2011.

If you make \$50,000/year, you have to make this for 13.4 million years to make 671 billion. All this money is spent to protect us from other people. This does not include State budgets.

4. 46.2 million people in the U.S. live in poverty (unable to provide for their material needs). Poverty rate for 2009 was \$22,350 for a family of four.

5. The pornography industry has larger revenues than Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple, and Netflix combined. People spend \$97.06 billion/year. Every second about 29,000 people are viewing pornography online.

6. 14,748 people were murdered in the U.S. in 2010, 84,767 people were raped in the U.S. in 2010, 737,000 people got their cars stolen, and so forth.

II.

## Sin

"Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command. This is what man's first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 397).

"Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside [food] can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile . . . From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these come from within and they defile" (Mark 7:14-23).

"We know that the law is spiritual [God's commands]; but I am carnal, sold into slavery to sin. What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate . . . So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin

that dwells in me . . . Miserable one that I am! Who will save me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord . . ." (Romans 7:14-25).

Sin -- saying "No" to God, truth, justice and rejecting what is good -- operates within us. It is a directive force within us, that we sometimes obey. Sin separates us from God and one another.

III.

## **Humanity is in Desperate Need of New Life**

### **Morning Prayer**

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all of our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

(Liturgy of the Hours - Advent Season/Christmas Season, pg 122; Catholic Publishing Company NY)

IV.

## **God Saves Humanity From Sin and Restores Us Back to Life in His Call to Repentance/Conversion, His call to Belief and by Giving the Holy Spirit**

"Let us cleanse our hearts for the coming of our great King, that we may be ready to welcome him; he is coming and will not delay" (Liturgy of the Hours, Second Sunday of Advent, pg 199).

In preparing for a visit from an important person, we will wear nice clothes and present ourselves well. In preparing for a visit from God, we must cleanse our hearts of sin. God and sin are incompatible.

"A voice of one crying out in the desert; 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.' John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins . . . And this is what he proclaimed: 'One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; **he will baptize you with the holy Spirit**' (Mark 1:3-8).

A. Jesus' first words:

"Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: 'This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:15).

B. Old Testament prophecy about Jesus' mission and work:

"I will show the holiness of my great name, desecrated among the nations . . . I will sprinkle clean water over you to make you clean; from all your impurities and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put my spirit within you** so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances and keep them . . . **you will be my people and I will be your God.** I will deliver you from all your impurities" (Ezekiel 36:23-29).

C. New Testament Scripture on Jesus baptizing:

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

"The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit helps us to love as God loves, so to live as Jesus lives. God's love delivers us from sin by transforming our hearts to love God and neighbor.

"We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin . . . sin must not reign over your mortal bodies that you obey their desires . . . present yourselves to God as raised from the dead to life" (Romans 6:6-13).

"The first work of the grace of the Holy Spirit is conversion, effecting justification in accordance with Jesus' proclamation at the beginning of the Gospel: 'Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.' Moved by grace, man turns toward God and away from sin, thus accepting forgiveness and righteousness from on high. 'Justification is not only the remission of sins, but also the sanctification and **renewal of the interior man**' (Catechism of the Catholic Church; 1989).

V.

## The Kingdom or Reign of God

Repentance/Conversion: The Holy Spirit calls us to turn back to God and to break with sin. "He is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Belief: To believe means to accept as true Jesus' message. When one believes in Jesus, a new relationship begins between Jesus and the believing person. Jesus and the believing person become united in mind, will, heart and sentiment. "The word of God is now at work in you who believe" (1 Thess. 2:7b-9, 13).

Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit: Jesus baptizes/immerses us in the Holy Spirit. He shares with us God's own Spirit. The Spirit washes us of sin in baptism/confession, adopts us as children of God, and gives us the power to obey God and reject sin. It is God's own life, called grace, which gives us power to live a new life.

Kingdom of God: Jesus is King and rules in those who accept him. Jesus restores humanity back to life, manifested in his healings, by driving out demons, but especially in his teachings and giving the Holy Spirit. As King, Jesus makes laws to be obeyed, gives us many good things, protects us from evil and will judge us at the end of our lives.

Heaven: Only those who repent of their sins, believe in Jesus and live a holy life by the power of the Holy Spirit, will live with God, Mary, the angels and saints in heaven. "May the God of peace make you perfect and holy and may you entirely -- spirit, soul and body -- be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

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