

Unto us a child is born

Isaiah 9:6

My beloved parishioner,

When the Shepherds of Bethlehem visited the Infant Jesus, one of the younger boys took along some straw from the crib. "What have you got there in your hand"? asked one of the shepherds. "Just some straw from the crib where the baby was sleeping." "Straw?" laughed the others. "That's just rubbish. Throw it away." The little boy shook his head and said "No. I am keeping it. These pieces of straw remind me of that baby, and what the angels said about him.

The next day the shepherds asked the boy" Do you still have those pieces of straw? You do? Look! Why don't you throw away that worthless stuff?" "No, it is not worthless," said the little shepherd. "God's baby has slept on it." "So, what"? the others answered. "It is the baby that is important not the straw.

"That's where you are all wrong" explained the little shepherd. "This straw is worth something. If there were no straw in the crib, what could the poor infant have slept on? No: this handful of straw tells me something. It tells that God makes use of small worthless things. God needs us little people to help him do his work.

It is Christmas again at the corner. Every year, when Christmas approaches, we are again reminded of God's unconditional love for us. "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life". (Jn 3:16) We celebrate our Lord's coming into the world in flesh on Christmas day. We celebrate "Emmanuel, God with us". Let our preparation for Nativity and its celebration help us recognize the unique gift of my life and special role God has placed on me in the journey of Christian faith. Christmas is a special time of the year and we are specially chosen by God. Let us enjoy and celebrate the joy, enthusiasm, hope and love that the season brings in.

Saint Joseph the Worker Church Bonneauville wishes you and your family and friends a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Benny Jose *Deacon Richard Weaver*

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