

Homily for Christmas Eve

I heard two kids talking to each other and I name them as Fred and Drew. Fred is telling to Drew: My mum's having a new baby. Drew asked Fred, What's wrong with the old one?

Today we are told about the Birth of a baby, Jesus, so that we become like him. We live in a very proud and egotistical generation. Everyone, it seems, is screaming for his or her own rights and seeking to be recognized as someone important. God's sign is the baby in need of help and in poverty. God's sign is simplicity. God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. He comes as a baby – defenceless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with his strength. He takes away our fear of his greatness. He asks for our love: so he makes himself a child. God made himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him, and love him.... Christmas has become the Feast of gifts in imitation of God who has given himself to us. Let us allow our heart, our soul, and our mind to be touched by this fact!" One day a small child called his grandma to wish her a Happy Birthday. He asked her how old she was, and grandma told him, 62. The little boy was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, Did you really start at 1?. Learn to small always.

When we consider how incredibly vast the universe really is, we become confronted by two realities simultaneously: our smallness, and God's bigness. From our perspective in our smallness, it makes sense that God has larger more important things to think about in this universe than you or me. But from God's perspective he thinks the world of you! He willingly left the splendour of heaven for the smell of a stable. He left the company of angels for the company of men. He who was omnipresent took upon Himself the limitations of humanity. I know that smallness is holiness. I know that I am called to do "Small Things with Great Love" and that for "Love to be real, it must cost—it must hurt—it must empty us of self" (St. Mother Teresa). He is a God "who is in love with our smallness." As we contemplate the manger scene, we are invited to reflect on how well we welcome the tenderness of God.

It was the day after Christmas, the pastor of a Church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. Immediately he turned and went outside to look and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. He walked up to the boy and said, Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?" The little boy replied, I got him from the church. And why did you take him? The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to

the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it.

Take the Child Jesus (not the statue) with you in your hearts and he will teach you the greatness of our smallness.