

Homily for Midnight Mass

A Sunday School teacher challenged her children to take some time on that afternoon to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God. We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

Today we remember Jesus who is born for us. Emmanuel God-with-us. A birth is always a joy! The Birth of the Child Jesus in a Manger brings joy to the whole world. Think back to the joy of your own parents when you yourself arrived in the world. Use this very natural human happiness to come close to the happiness of today's feast. This night is a night of promise: the earth is changing into a big garden And in people's hearts, hope appears; like a flower, a green leaf, like frost on an old tree, Like a blade of grass in the middle of winter. Knowing that God is faithful, it really helps us to not be captivated by worry. But knowing that He will do what He has said, He will cause it to happen, whatever He has promised, and then it causes us to be less involved in worrying about a situation.

This night is a night of Birth. A baby is born, a baby among so many others. He is like me, He is so little. But He will become so great that the whole world will be Able to throw itself into His wide open arms. And He has a name which is so beautiful That I would like to wrap it up and give it to you, to light a smile On your lips and in your heart. 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. 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 be small always.

This night is a night of joy. Nobody should be sad because God is born on the earth! So I say to you, offer joy to everyone on this night, but also tomorrow! The joy of this night is a gift for all the days of our lives! We would never invite a thief into our house, so why would we allow thoughts that steal our joy to make ourselves at home in our minds? Children are happy and joyful because they don't have a file in their minds called : All the things that could go wrong. Some cause joy and happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go. May the Birth of Jesus bless us with His peace and happiness.