

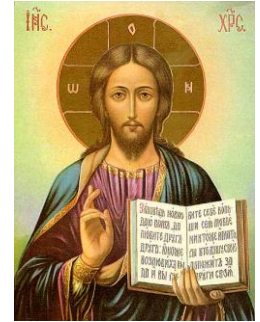


12.13.2014

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus Christ was born some 2000 years ago in very humble circumstances to a young teenage virgin girl named Mary. Jesus life on the earth was a mere 33 years, and only three of those years were spent doing ministry and teaching publicly. He was born in an obscure village, in a manger, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.



He never raised an army. He never ran a company. He never had much money. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress, nearly 2 billion people claim to be Christians and worship Jesus as their God.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

Let us pay close attention to the Scriptures, Catechism and our presentation. May God bless us with His Wisdom, His Work and the wherewithal to complete the specific mission given to each one of us. Amen

**You are God's representative on the earth
and when you bless and encourage the
people in your life, you are displaying God's
love for them.**



Mathew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Luke 6:37-38

Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.



Mathew 6:27-34

Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin.

But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?

So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.

The Word of the Lord.

Catechism

The Christmas mystery

526

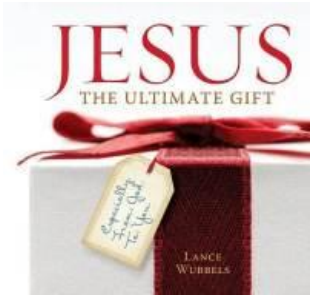
To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become "children of God" we must be "born from above" or "born of God." Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us.



Modern Comment

What's the opposite of power and status? It is LOVING RELATIONSHIPS.

This really hit me when I heard about the hundred-yard dash at the Special Olympics several years ago in Spokane, Washington. Nine contestants raced toward the finish line, but about a third of the way down the track, one of the boys fell and began to cry. While 6 of the 8 other racers continued to push toward the finish line and possible victory, 2 of the youngsters stopped, turned around and headed back for their fallen competitor. They helped him up and then the 3 boys held hands as they walked down the track to cross the finish line together. The crowd rose and gave these youngsters a longer and louder ovation than the winner of the race.



Life is more about the choices we make as we interact with each other. Most of the youngsters chose to go for earthly success – victory in the race – while 2 tossed aside their own dreams in favor of compassion. The crowd responded with enthusiasm because we all yearn to live at a higher level and these racers modeled what that means. They made a different choice.

Jesus wants us to make these kinds of choices. Life constantly presents us with opportunities to choose to love and serve one another. It is not about us. It is about reaching out in love.

Questions to Focus on:

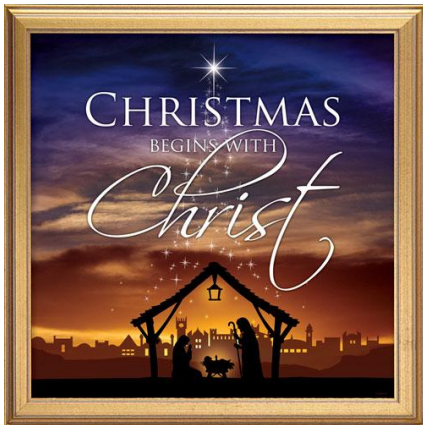
1 In what way did the video "One Solitary Life" speak to you? How can we put the message of the "One Solitary Life" video into this Christmas season?

2 Mother Teresa could have cared less about money, recognition, power and status. She believed "we are here to serve, not to be served". What is your plan for making the world a better place for having lived here?

Men's Group Calendar

12/27/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
1/10/2015	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
1/24/2015	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library

Men's Annual Conference - March 21, 2015 Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School



It is NOT about us that counts.
It is the Spirit of God that speaks through us that makes a positive difference in the world.

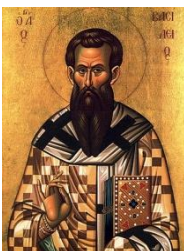
May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group

A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.
We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son.

**Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave. You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior.
Amen**



A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

St. Basil