



## *Essential Evangelization*

### **Baby Love**

This week we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> and final Sunday of Advent. It is the precursor to that most holy and excellent evening when God's love for us was transformed into flesh and blood. The Word became flesh! While Mary and Joseph pondered and cherished all these wondrous things in their hearts the miracle unfolded in a humble manger. In that lowly feeding trough, the animals got a ring side seat for the most wondrous moment in the history of the world. In that silent night, the hills were still in the dark sky only to be punctuated by stars like glimmering diamonds. In an instant, an angel appeared in a great light to tell them to not be afraid and was followed up by the great band of heavenly hosts signing and praising God, for all who believe in Him, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to those on whom His favor rests."

The importance of this story, which is much more than an old fashioned Christmas fable for all who believe, is not so much that Jesus came, but why he came. The soft little hands would one day lift the cup of the New Covenant, and become His Body and Blood out of love for us. Those tender feet would walk the dusty hills of the Holy Land to bring sight to the blind, make the deaf and mute hear and speak, and most importantly, amazingly their sins were forgiven too. And one day those same hands would lift the wood of the cross and be nailed with outstretched arms out of love for us. Likewise the travelled feet would bear the pain of the nails and the wood of the cross for us.

Instead of getting overwhelmed with gift giving and receiving this holy holiday season, let us pause in these final days to be thankful for all the gifts God has given us. Starting with the basics: life, family, food and shelter, and health and work if you have that too. Most importantly, let us be thankful for the gift of eternal life and the forgiveness of sins for all who believe in the Life who came to die especially for you and me.

*"Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty Savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, He will sing joyfully because of you."*

*Zephaniah 3: 16-17*

*This is one of a series of articles  
on Evangelization from the  
Evangelization Committee*