



Priestly People

SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

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Just as our Blessed Mother Mary was chosen to bring Jesus Christ into the world, so we are called to bring Christ to people everywhere.

We have been blessed by the coming of our Lord Jesus. Our Messiah, a poor and humble man, who was called to be a servant. In many ways he showed us that our mission, like his, was to do the will of his Heavenly Father, to serve and glorify the Triune God.

Jesus came into a world torn by disease, racism, hatred, suspicion, and political discord.

When our Heavenly Father gave us Jesus as our Lord and Savior, he inspired us to show our love for God. And when He gave us our Blessed Mother, he provided us with an example of how to live grace filled lives.

To fulfill our mission, we must recall God's goodness to Mary, and all the blessings God showers upon us. And then we must put love into action!

So, we ask ourselves... Do I have...

- A listening heart
- Courage
- Strength
- Commitment
- Fidelity in the face of fear
- An ability to wait on God and trust in his Word
- Hope
- Belief in the power of the Gospel
- Openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit
- Willingness to know and do God's will
- Trust in Almighty God and a willingness to stand on the promises of God.

In whatever manner you answer these questions, it will help identify your strengths and weaknesses.

At Christmas time we count our treasures and come to the "crib" to humbly ask for more. We kneel before the manger to ask for grace and strength to do God's will. We pray for the well-being of family and friends. We pray for peace.

Many years ago, a wise Sister of St. Joseph listened to my grumbling in the sacristy before Mass. As I spoke about all my woes, she began looking exasperated. Sr. Mary Perpetua, CSJ, took a deep breath and with an all-knowing sparkle in her eyes said: "Remember, what you do - you do for God!"

What Mary did she did for God.

What Jesus did, he did in faithful obedience to God.

And what we do we do for God.

A very blessed Christmas to you all!

In Christ Jesus our Savior,

David J. Fitzgerald, OFM

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