

Advent Reflection

December 6, 2020

LOVE

Matthew 1:18-25 NRSV

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reflection by Jean Marie B.

It is hard to always listen to God. We get busy with our lives through work, another meeting, zoom, family, laundry, figuring out what to cook for dinner, cooking dinner, cleaning, paying bills, home repairs, reading to our children, volunteering, and when you think you have it together - it's time to do the laundry AGAIN and the cycle starts over. It is easy and daunting to get overwhelmed in this process. We make earthly judgements of people and their situations. Feelings get hurt in situations where we didn't belong, but God was taking care of it. I find when I focus on God and give people Grace, life has less bumps. Maybe my tractor seat has better shocks when I focus on God and give people Grace.

Joseph was going to quietly divorce Mary when he found out she was pregnant. He did not discuss this with others. Joseph was overwhelmed, fearful, and sad. Through divine Grace the Lord sent an angel to Joseph to tell him "do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph even when you were overwhelmed with life thank you for listening to the Lord.