



CHRISTMAS - Discovering Our Connectedness



Christmas is a season of connectedness. It celebrates the connectedness of human beings with God and with one another. The expression of our connectedness, however, sometimes tends to get ritualistic.

Parties, celebrations, and family dinners, often allow us to feel good as long as we are in the company but lonely the moment, we leave it. One way of escape from this loneliness is the discovery that our connectedness results not so much from what we do together but we are. The celebration of Christmas is basically about “who we are”.

Christmas gives us the good news that God is with us. But it also shows us that finding Him is only possible if we are willing to go beyond images, words, and thoughts, in which we give up trying to fashion a God according to our image and likeness, and discover Him as God who is the center of our being.

This is the secret of the shepherds and the wise men. They were willing to go beyond the outward “form” to the substance of things. So, when a caregiver(nurse) connects with someone whose body is wasting away beyond recognition, and a mother can still recognize the face of her son beyond his disfigured body, when we are able to see in an AIDS victim a basic human dignity that has remained untarnished, when we can connect with the poor and marginalized for no other reason than the discovery that we are bonded together by our participation in the life that comes from God, then we know that we have found the saviour.

This is the God who dwells in us and whose coming we celebrate at Christmas. Silent night is a popular Christmas carol. It speaks of the silence that is so characteristic of God’s presence. Listen to the silent music of another’s heart until you find a rhythm that emerges, and then gradually begin to make from within you a sound that matches the melody and rhythm of what you hear. Then you will experience a communion, a oneness of being that binds you together. It will be your best-loved Christmas carol. – **Sisters from Dindigul**

★ CHRISTMAS



C. Christ, if he is left out of Christmas it is like celebrating a wedding without a groom.

H. Hope that Jesus by pitching his tent among us understands our human frailties.

R. Revolution that there is blessing in poverty, happiness in insult and persecution.

I. Israel the chosen one of God through whom God fulfils his plan of salvation. Jesus the true Israel.

S. Salvation for those who walked in darkness for they have seen a great light.

T. Thank you Father for the gift of Jesus. The best expression of thanks would be to make a room for Jesus in our hearts.

M. Mary who in obedience to God’s will brought forth Jesus into this world.

A. Angels sang at the birth of Jesus "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth".

S. Star that led the wise men to Bethlehem still continues to shine and beacon.

Christ is the star we follow. He is the light who will guide us through the night until the Sun of eternal day dawns upon us!

WHERE GOD IS BORN, HOPE IS BORN

Sr M. Irene Patil

A season to Rejoice

The Month of November brought back fresh memories of our dear departed and reminded us of our own onward journey as we move daily a day closer to our father's home where we all will one day meet and join the multitude in white robes and the angels to the unending songs of praise and adoration. The liturgical readings of these last days invited us to reflect on the end of times, heaven, purgatory and hell. The liturgy of the ordinary time culminates in the Feast of Christ our king and redeemer, to whose banquet we are all invited. Only, the souls who are washed of their sins can praise and adore God in the heavens for God is Holy and no impurity can enter His presence. With a prayer on our lips, let us be honest and holy in this present age as we await the happiness to come and welcome the season of advent with a renewed knowledge that God loved the world so much that He sent his only son into the world.

Joyful

Immanuel, God with us by becoming human took upon himself our sins and died instead of us. God saved me and gave me life. Therefore, Advent is a season to rejoice; for it prepares us to receive the Saviour. It is also a time for us to reconcile with others, to enjoy the favour of the Lord. Jesus came to this world with the mission, that by his death and resurrection He restored our communication with God and let us know that our God in heaven is also our God on earth (Immanuel) a loving father, who readily forgives all our offences.

Advent has twofold character, one is to prepare us for Christ's birth recalling the first Christmas, and the second is to prepare us for the second coming at the end of the time. Advent is thus a period of serene and joyful expectation. Like Mary, who in total humility and obedience received the Word, gave flesh to it and offered it for the salvation of the world; let us too welcome THE WORD proceeding from the Father into our hearts, so that going forth to people in service, living in communion with others this Word becomes life and light through us.

Sr M. Tessy Thekkeanvazhakala



My Experience in the Holy Place

“The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have new and fulfilling moments.”

- Christopher McCandless



I feel deeply privileged to be in the community of Guru Yesu Illam for my apostolic experience. This house is situated on the campus of the National Shrine of St. Thomas the Apostle. Having lived for two months I found this place permeated with a spiritual atmosphere, hospitality, love, and care for one another.

I have heard a lot about this place of pilgrimage and I was eager to see the tomb of St. Thomas the disciple of Jesus who lived and moved with Jesus and have a personal encounter with him. He had touched the body of Christ and exclaimed “My Lord, and My God”. I am now relishing the beauty and spiritual treasure of this place where his mortal remains are preserved. Daily, I keep admiring the deep faith of the people who come to adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and those who flock to the tomb of St. Thomas as well as to the Cathedral Church, spending long time with the Lord.



The psalmist says “O taste and see that the Lord is good”. I can feel that some of these people have tasted the goodness of the Lord and that's why their hearts are longing for the Lord. The faith and devotion of these people are an invitation for me to taste the sweetness and the goodness of Jesus daily as I kneel before him in praise and adoration. This experience keeps strengthening my faith day by day.

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings”. - William Arthur Ward



I thank God for this marvelous blessing bestowed upon me.

Novice Rosita Gangmei Santhome, Chennai

Special Blessings



This year the celebration of the feast of Jesus the Divine Master had a special significance for the community of Jamshedpur. On that day we had the joy of blessing our renovated convent building and the fraternal visit of our Provincial Superior Sr M. Celine Cunha, for the first time after her appointment. This was indeed an occasion to celebrate.

The feast day Eucharist Celebration at our Chapel was presided over by his Lordship Telsphore Bilunge along with concelebrants. The Liturgy was animated by the community along with the students from Community College.

After the Eucharistic Celebration, a short felicitation program was organized to welcome the Provincial Superior and to express our gratitude to his Lordship Telsphore Bilunge, the Bishop of Jamshedpur, patron of the College. Sr M. Tessa Thekkeanvazhakala welcomed the august gathering and the students of the community college exhibited their talents by presenting a lively program which was appreciated by all those who were present. The presence of the invited guests, the religious sisters and priests from other congregations, and the well-wishers added color to the occasion. A sumptuous feast meal was served to everyone with special care.

The Provincial Superior's visit brought immense Joy among the community members and encouraged us to be more vibrant and innovative in our missionary discipleship. Her interest in the education of poor tribal students, and mission Spirit motivated us to work with zeal.

We the sisters at Jamshedpur community remain grateful to the Sr M. Celine Cunha, Provincial Superior and



her team for initiating the work of renovation of the convent building by providing moral and financial support and we also thank all the PDDM Sisters for your prayers and good wishes.

Sr M. Reshma Dsouza



After two long years of wait St. Joseph's Community college, Jamshedpur got in full swing with the preparation for Convocation Day. Finally, the 15th Convocation Day was held in gait and splendour with the senior students getting ready for their certification day (final exams, surveys, project work) and junior students practicing and getting ready for the Day.

All this was possible only with the help of God because these students who come to the institute with no knowledge of English are constantly encouraged and motivated by Sr M. Tessa Thekkeanvazhakala the principal and Sr M. Reshma Dsouza the head of the department. With their vigilant supervision and deep commitment, the students are helped both to excel in their study and in performance.

Rt. Rev. Telesphore Bilung Bishop of Jamshedpur, the patron of the College was in great admiration for the progress the community college has made in these years. The priests from the Parish, the Jesuit priests from the nearby novitiate community, and the family members the students added colour to the event.

Dear sisters of Jamshedpur & Dindigul thank you very much for your contribution to this issue of Disciples India.

During the Centenary Year, the sisters and the formees are invited to write articles, poems and any creative pieces on topics associated with our life, mission and the congregation - like the women of the dawn, Founder, Mother Scholastica, Eucharist etc... The article should be creative and with personal touch, containing around 550 words and within one page. The best write-up will receive attractive prizes during the Centenary Celebration. Separate prizes will be given for those in formation, the temporary professed and the perpetually professed. kindly send your news materials with photos to the following Email ID – inpddmwebsite@gmail.com

The bond that links
your true family is not
one of blood, but of
respect and joy in each
other's life.

Richard Bach

Wishing you all

a fruitful Advent,



Merry Christmas



& A Blessed New Year 2023

