



December 9, 2018

REFLECTION FROM FR. PETER

(Luke 3: 1-6)

GOD WANTS TO BE INVOLVED IN OUR LIVES.

Pope Benedict XVI made this same point during an Advent speech in 2006: *“In these days the liturgy constantly reminds us that ‘God comes’ to visit his people, to dwell in the midst of men and women and to form with them a communion of love and life: a family”* (Angelus, 10 December 2006).

In today’s Second Reading, St Paul makes the same point in one of the most memorable, beautiful, and powerful phrases. He wrote, *“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

Yes, God doesn’t create us and then forget about us, like some kind of divine architect or watchmaker. He gives us the gift of life, and then he accompanies us, gently trying to guide us into a deeper and deeper friendship with him, never giving up on us. He knows where we were born, where we grew up, what we have suffered and enjoyed, and the wounds in our hearts. Nothing about our lives is indifferent to him, because we aren’t indifferent to him.

God is not an *abstract* God, He is not a myth, and He takes up his stance on the crossroads of everyone’s personal history, and addresses us there. Jesus Christ is a God who wants to be involved in our lives, He wants our friendship. We should rejoice because we are **“remembered by God.”**

Fr. Peter Nhat Hoang

REFLEXIÓN DEL PADRE PEDRO

(Luke 3: 1-6)

DIOS QUIERE INVOLUCRARSE EN NUESTRAS VIDAS.

Papa Benedicto XVI menciona este punto durante un discurso de Adviento en 2006: *“En estos días la liturgia constantemente nos recuerda que ‘Dios está viniendo’ a visitar a su pueblo, para habitar en medio de los hombres y mujeres, y formar con ellos una comunión de amor y vida: una familia”* (Ángelus, Diciembre 10, 2006).

En la 2da lectura, San Pablo menciona el mismo punto, en una de las más hermosas, poderosas y memorables frases. Él escribió, *“Yo confié en que, el que comenzó una buena obra en ti, continuara hasta completarla hasta el día de Jesucristo.”*

Sí, Dios, no nos crea y después nos olvida, como un divino arquitecto o un hacedor de relojes. EL nos da el don de la vida, y después nos acompaña, gentilmente trata de guiarnos a una profunda, pero muy profunda relación con EL, nunca se cansa de nosotros. Él sabe dónde nacimos, donde crecimos, lo que hemos sufrido y lo que nos ha alegrado, y él sana nuestro corazón. Nada de nuestras vidas le es indiferente, porque nosotros no le somos indiferentes.

Dios no es un Dios abstracto, Él no es un mito, Él toma su estancia en los caminos cruzados en la historia personal de cada uno de nosotros, y nos dirige. Jesucristo es un Dios que quiere estar involucrado en nuestras vidas, Él quiere nuestra amistad. Nosotros deberíamos alegrarnos porque somos **“recordados por Dios”**.

Fr. Peter Nhat Hoang

ANNUAL SVDP TURKEY/FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for your generosity to this food drive for the Christmas Food Boxes!



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS — Regular Court meeting on **the third Thursday of December**, on the **20th** ... Mass at 12:15pm, followed by potluck/meeting at **1:00pm**; bring a dish to share, along with a small gift (+/- \$5) to exchange. For info: Julia Kelso at 541-344-6851, or www.cdacourtoregon118.com.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2019 **National Education Contest** is open to all students grades 4-12. You may be enrolled in any school or home-schooled to enter. There are two themes (choose one): **"HERE I AM LORD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL"** (Ps. 40), or **"DOING MY BEST TO DO GOOD"**. For a list of official rules and an entry form ask your parish office or visit the National CDA website: catholicdaughters.org or contact Julia Kelso at cdacourtoregon118@gmail.com. Entries are judged at the local level with first place winners moving to state and then the national level. Entries are due by January 30, 2019.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Scholarship for any **8th grader entering 9th grade at a Catholic High School**. Requirements 1) You must be Catholic. You do NOT have to have a relative who is a CDA member. 2) You must be attending a Catholic High School in the Fall. 3) An essay of approximately 250-300 words typed and doubled-spaced entitled **"HOW WILL I BE COMPASSIONATE AND BRING THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO OTHERS?"** Entries must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2019. For the application/cover sheet and further instructions please visit the National CDA website: catholicdaughters.org

COOKIES, COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE? — Catholic Community Services is having their annual Christmas Social on Friday, **Dec. 21st**, 9am—1pm, at both CCS locations. If you can help distribute beverages, cookies, and gifts, email, or call, Nicole at: nhughes@cclsc.org (541-345-3628, ext. 317).

THEOLOGY ON TAP! — Join Eugene Catholic Young Adults' (ECYA) this Thursday, **Dec. 13th**, for an evening with Todd Cooper — focus is *Everyday Holiness*, **6:30pm**, at the K of C Hall (1144 Charnelton). ECYA is for everyone, ages 21-39. For more info. and other events coming up, contact: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com (541-270-9329) & facebook.com/EugeneCYA.

MARY AND THE CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

As we look at Mary during Advent, we see a real treasure. She is one of God's gifts to us at Christmas. She reminds us of the long history of God's love and faithfulness for the human race. She is a model of faith and trust in God, of endurance in suffering, and of joy in being saved by God's mercy.

Tradition has it that when the Archangel Gabriel visited Mary at the Annunciation, he found her alone in quiet contemplative prayer. And through her prayers, she was well prepared to begin her own Advent. God certainly invites us to follow her example by studying God's word, praising Him in prayer, and reaching out to those in need.

During Mary's Advent, she thought not of herself, but of others. She thought of her cousin Elizabeth and Elizabeth's soon to be born son, John the Baptist. And we know she thought deeply of her own child, Jesus, whom she carried in her own womb. During our Advent, we celebrate this spirit of Mary's charity and selfless love of others.

Using Mary as our model, we reach out to others by giving spiritual gifts and our love — we take time from our own busy schedules to visit the sick and the homebound, volunteer at soup kitchens, prepare food baskets for the poor, sing Christmas carols, read scriptures, and help financially when we can. But above all, we keep in mind and give thanks to God for the real reason for Christmas — God's love for us. God loves us so much that he sends His only Son to us again this Christmas. What a truly great grace and blessing!