

# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

## Spiritual Reflections for the Christmas Season

### Christmas Season Reflection:

from Christmas Eve until Jan. 9, 2021 Epiphany

#### 1. Reading: Gospel (Luke 2.1 – 16)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Silence for two minutes.

#### 2. Reflection:

Christmas: **“A child... wrapped in bands...lying in a manger: (Luke 2:7)**

Jesus you come to us small, bound by human limitations, lying down. You grew to maturity, freedom and rose in strength. Always you are the child of God our Father. Always you have freedom, courage and initiative.

Fr. Henri Nouwen says we are all “adult children of God”. We are dependent, needy, limited. We are given freedom and talent. Hope is our cry that dependency and freedom lead us to you. Teach us to love you the child; teach us to love you the adult son and person of the Father.

3. Sharing:

- a) How are we like children, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in manger? Should we be?
- b) “Children, ““wrapped in swaddling clothes,”” lying down” indicate dependence, bound by limitations, at rest, lying down. Don’t we need all of our lives to be both dependent and independent, bound in good ways, independent in growing to freedom and maturity?
- c) Do you, did you experience, or are you experiencing, this Christmas any of what Luke describes as some of the first experiences of Jesus?

Discuss for ten minutes.

4. Closing Prayers:

Together we pray; Jesus we are grateful for you and the hope that you born this day from God brings to us; we are always your children.

You have blessed us with gifts; we promise to use the gifts of your graced humanity to build up your kingdom.

Holy Spirit, with gratitude we ask; a blessed Christmas for all the world.

5. Sing a Christmas Carol.

A blessed and happy, heathy, loving Christmas for all the world.

Fr. Sam