



*“Behold, the virgin
shall be with child and
bear a son,
and they shall name
him Emmanuel,”
which means
“God is with us.”
(Matt 1:23)*

Christmas 2013

Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions:

As we journey through the Advent Season we hear the call to *“prepare the way of the Lord.”* (Mt. 3:3). This season is about preparation. It is a time to be challenged to take some time to quietly reflect on how we are prepared to meet the Christ in the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Our time of preparation is rewarded as we hear the words of St. John’s Gospel, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* (Jn 1:1). People had been living in hope and expectation waiting for the savior. The Word of God now takes flesh and dwells among us.

Do we continue to hear that Word in our lives? Is our time of preparation, expectation, hope and celebration only during this Advent and Christmas seasons? It is very easy to get into the “Christmas spirit” at this time of the year with all that goes on around us. But the birth of that Word, that Christ, is not something which is celebrated only at this time of the year, for that Jesus must be born again in our hearts and lives each and every day. Do we ever think of that in April or July? Does the Word of God take flesh in our lives throughout the year?

The Word of God speaks to us so powerfully at this time of year. We feel the difference in people at this time. We experience the feeling and spirit of Christ so much more powerfully in this season. Imagine if this spirit permeated our lives, world and society throughout the year, how different would this earth be for us?

Our friars serving in foreign missions throughout the world proclaim that Word each and every day. They call the people they serve to constantly prepare themselves to listen to the Word of God. But, they could not do that without your continued prayers and support. You enable them to make that Word made flesh present to the people in the mission areas. Thank you!

On behalf of the Augustinian Friars in the United States and overseas, may that Word made flesh dwell in your lives this Christmas Day and every day of your life.

Your intentions will be remembered at Mass on Christmas Day. A Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Anthony P. Burrascano, O.S.A.
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