

## The Word Became Flesh

My dear friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas!

Among many desires of parents today, the safety of their children is one of their non-negotiables. For safety, parents put up rail guards, install security systems, ensure that their children are well buckled up in their car seats, draw up and teach their children safety rules, set boundaries and curfews and ensure that their children are familiar with the family emergency contact list. A schoolteacher could lose his/her job, a sports coach could be dismissed, a politician could be voted out of office, individuals are prosecuted and jailed if they compromise the safety of a child. And so it is easy for us to understand the importance and need for safety especially of our children.

But no rational human being would put their child through what the child Jesus went through on that first Christmas night. Mary and Joseph had to travel from Galilee to Bethlehem on foot for several days on rough dusty roads. Imagine the silence of the night broken only by the cry of wolves and bleeping of sheep, the fear that robbers could strike out of nowhere, the anxiety of finding themselves stranded in the middle of nowhere with no place to lay their heads, the stench of a cave used as a barn with the overwhelming smell of manure, the anguish of a teenage Mary giving birth to her first child alone in a cave with her carpenter husband provided whatever help he can. The fear that robbers could strike out of nowhere. You would think that God should have put in place all the necessary safety measures to ensure that His Son – the Savior of the world, who comes to us in a vulnerable state as a child – receives a safe and befitting welcome as most parents would do. But it was in life at its most dismal point that Christ chose to enter in human experience and sanctify it.

Christmas celebrates the recollection of a great moment, a great turning point in the history of the world and our personal history. We celebrate our God who is timeless, but broke into human time, took on our flesh in order to pitch his tent among us so that He might show us his unconditional love.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, Jesus invites us to deepen our personal relationship with God, imitate his example of unconditional love and share his joy in our relationship with others. As we sing joy to the world this season, find ways to bring that joy to individual hearts.

### Highlights of the Year 2019

- Our parishes, Holy Trinity and St. John's, were blessed in many ways in 2019. Our greatest blessing is all of you, our parishioners who support our church financially, those who volunteer countless hours to serve as sacristans, altar servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, musicians, work in the office, prepare the Wednesday Night dinners, clean the church and parish hall, work in the yard, clean and change the light bulbs and provide supplies we need for Mass. Your love for Christ, your generous heart and dedication is extraordinary. Thank you.
- We were also blessed to install a new Knights of Columbus Council of the Most Holy Trinity. Twenty-four men in our parish committed to serving God and our parish family as Knights. They pledged to make the Good News of Christ more visible in our faith community through the witness of their lives. During this Christmas season, the Knight helped to provide food basket to the needy in our area. Their commitment inspires us.
- In November, we started a new Outreach Ministry, which aims to care for parishioners especially those who are absent from the community, as well as making our visitors feel welcomed. This new ministry strives to reach out to and welcome back our brothers and sisters who may have felt left out to reconnect them with Christ and our parish community. Their intentional discipleship is what the Church needs today. We are very proud of their endeavors.
- The room where the AA group normally meets received a much-needed remodeling. This major project was financed by individuals from the AA group.
- A generous donor purchased the new tabernacle now installed in our church with a new stand from another parishioner. The new tabernacle highlights the role of Christ as the center of our lives and faith.

## **Fr. Anthony's Christmas Message**

- A new Lighthouse kiosk, which is in the vestibule at Holy Trinity, was made possible through the generosity of Trish Freitag. The new kiosk contains inspirational spiritual resources for anyone who is looking for ways to grow in their faith and spiritual life. It will always be restocked with new resources. I encourage everyone to always stop by and see what is available.

We thank the good Lord for his graces and blessings in our parish in 2019, and we ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit in 2020.

May the peace, joy and glad tidings from the birth of Christ always find a home in your heart. I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Holy, Happy and Healthy New Year.

*--Fr. Anthony Ahamefulu  
Parish Priest*