

FROM FR. CHRIS MARY ALIMAJI'S DESK

Reflections on the Annunciation of the Lord

The Bible Readings for this Fourth Sunday of Advent 2020 are 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38; and Psalm 89.

The generosity of God far outweighs human generosity. When you plan to do something for God, he himself does far greater for you. This is what we learn from our Reading from 2 Sam. 7:1-16. King David was concerned that the Ark of God dwelt in a tent. The Prophet Nathan advised King David to go ahead and do what he had in mind about it. For that good thought of David, we have two blessings that last forever. God made two promises to David. David responded in song: "The promises of the Lord I will sing forever." (Psalm 89). What are the blessings? (1) God promised to fix a secure place for Israel as a nation, to dwell without further disturbance from their enemies. This is not often talked about. You see, a wise leader brings blessings and security to his or her subjects. (2) God promised a Davidic kingdom that will last forever, through his offspring who will be called Son of God and God will be a father to him. All these are because King David had a good thought for God, not that he had carried out his thought, just only for thinking that way.

At the revival (last Wednesday), I said that the highway for the Lord must be made in our hearts. That traffic must take place in our hearts, and not on our streets and roads made by our Transport Departments. While each of us must not delay now in making the way of the Lord straight for his smooth ride, we are reading from the Bible in the passages already indicated that three other people already succeeded. First, we have King David who intended to build a temple for the Lord, and God promised him a house instead. **What God planned to do for humanity, (cf. Gen. 3:15), he fulfilled in the lineage of king David, because David contemplated building a house for the Lord. The Prophet Isaiah later foretold: "the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." (Is. 7:14).** Second St. Paul helped to build houses in the hearts of the Romans, when he revealed to them, just as I am revealing among you, "the mystery kept secret for long ages" but now manifested through his teachings and prophetic writings. **The reason is "to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ." (Rom. 16:26-27). That belief in Jesus Christ will lead to obedience to God.** The third is in the Gospel. Mary of Nazareth agreed to prepare a place in her womb for the Son of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk. 1:38). **With her "YES" to the Word at the Annunciation of the Lord, the God-incarnate took a home in her, taking our human form, and that Word of God became flesh and now dwells among us. (cf. John 1:14). To**

know Christ and to believe in him who is Immanuel, “God is with us”, is to be given the spiritual power to become children of God too, by believing in that mystery now revealed among us in time. (cf. John 1:12; Rom. 16:25-27).

The incarnation of God as human and his nativity are what we celebrate at Christmas. This is made known to man at the Annunciation by the Archangel of the Lord, Gabriel. In Scripture, a house is both a dwelling place and a lineage of generations. By the promise God made to King David, he has built David a lineage of a kingdom that will never end. This is what God has fulfilled in Jesus Christ who reigns as king forever, and who succeeds his ancestor David. The Genealogy of Jesus as written by the Apostle Matthew, testifies that Jesus Christ is of the lineage of King David. (cf. Mt. 1:1-17). Eternal life is to know God the Father, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he has sent. (cf. John 17:2-3). Let us all endeavor to know what God has done in our world for the salvation of humanity, and by believing in it, and by making a home for him in our hearts, we would inherit eternal life. This is the cause of our joy at Christmas Season, because God has visited his people and redeemed them as he promised. Plan to give yourself entirely to God, and he will surprise you more than you can ever imagine. To God be the glory and honor for ever and ever! Amen.