



December 25, 2011
The Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord--Christmas

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us
and we have seen his glory."
—John 1:14*

Dear Friends:

Christ is born! Each year we gather to celebrate the mystery of God who desires to be part of our human experience. The John's Gospel tells us that the very Word that God speaks to call all things into existence has now taken on our humanity and lives in our midst. Literally the Greek says he pitched his tent among us. This recalls the how God's glory took up residence in the tabernacle or tent of meeting. This was the place where the Ark Of The Covenant was kept when the Israelites made camp. And it traveled with them. Now God travels with us in the person of Jesus. But this is not limited to the historical Jesus but now the Risen Christ travels with us. Christ comes to be born in and among us, through the joys and struggles of human existence, in our long for justice and our search for love.

There is a wonderful poem that speaks to us of this called **Che Jesus** it is an anonymous poem written at **Christmas in 1970 from Cordoba, Argentina**. It reflects the struggles and dictators that people faced in Latin America during this period. The Che is a reference to the Argentine revolutionary Che Guevarra, but proposing Jesus as a different kind of revolutionary. The poem still applies today.

They told me that you came back to be born every Christmas.
Man, you're crazy!
...with this stubborn gesture of coming back every Christmas
you are trying to tell us something:

That the revolution that all proclaim begins first of all in
Each one's heart,
That it doesn't mean only changing structures but changing
Selfishness for love.
That we have to stop being wolves and return to being
Brothers and sisters,
That we...begin to work seriously for
Individual conversion and social change
That will give to all the possibility of having bread,
Education, freedom, and dignity.

That you have a message that's called the Gospel,
And a Church, and that's us—
A Church that wants to be a servant of all,
A Church that knows because God became human
One Christmas
There is no other way to love God but to love all people.
If that's the way it is, Jesus, come to me this Christmas,
Come to my country,
Come to the world of men and women.
And first of all, come to my heart.

May the Christ who comes to be born come to your heart and your family!

Peace and Christmas Joy,

Fr Ron

The Spanish Translation is on the website