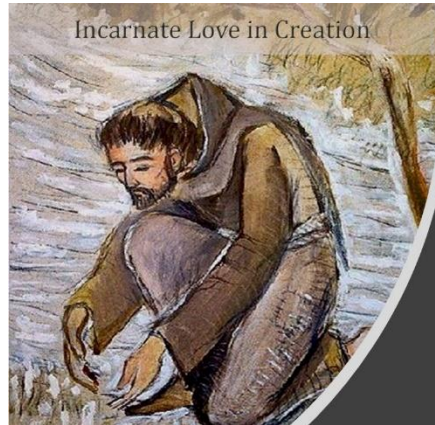


ADVENT REFLECTIONS 2020

Incarnation through Franciscan Eyes

Creation itself—not ritual or spaces constructed by human hands—was Francis’ primary cathedral. His love for creation drove him back into the needs of the city, a pattern very similar to Jesus’ own movement between desert solitude (contemplation) and small-town healing ministry (action).



‘Francis sought occasion to love God in everything.... in everything beautiful, he saw Him who is beauty itself, and he followed his Beloved everywhere by his likeness imprinted on creation; of all creation he made a ladder by which he might mount up and embrace Him who is all-desirable.’

(Bonaventure, Major Life of St Francis, IX:1)

The Gospel transforms us by putting us in touch with that which is much more constant and satisfying, literally the “ground of our being,” which has much more “reality” to it, rather than theological concepts or ritualization of reality. Daily cosmic events in the sky and on the earth are the Reality above our heads and beneath our feet every minute of our lives: a continuous sacrament, signs of God’s universal presence in all things. (Richard Rohr—Daily Meditations.)

With undivided hearts, **let us be an incarnation of God** in our daily lives.

Let us live this, not only as a moment in spiritual history, but as the eternal insertion of God, an ever deepening penetration of love in our sacred history.

We are part of the Incarnation in our world,
God-with-us in our time.

We are invited by shepherds and angels to approach the mystery of God incarnate in humanity and in all creation with awe and hope.

We are invited by innkeepers and pilgrims to witness God’s amazing tenderness and sensitivity.

We are brothers and sisters, and ultimately, we are challenged to be a witness that God is with us to a world turned upside-down in every way.”