

"December is for Our Lord and Our Lady"

by Fr. Jim Anderson, M.S.A.

Our Lord's birth must have been a huge puzzlement to lucifer. He certainly knew from Micah 5:2 that the Messiah who would rule Israel would be born in the City of David, Bethlehem. He also knew from Isaiah 49:6 and 52:10 that the Messiah would bring Light and Salvation to all nations, even to the ends of the earth. So he would expect to see wise men traveling from distant lands, following a heavenly sign, to honor an infant born in the ancient village just south of Jerusalem. But that proud angel would have been totally confused when the distinguished visitors found the new-born infant in a humble shelter for animals, being cared for by poor parents without servants and with only unlearned shepherds in attendance from time to time. If God had permitted lucifer to experience the choirs of holy angels in attendance to this man-child he would have been confirmed in his rash judgment because lucifer knew nothing of obedience, purity of heart and humility.

But it was just these virtues that moved the eternal Father to send his great angelic messenger, Gabriel, to a virgin betrothed to a young carpenter. We know from tradition confirmed by Holy Scripture that both Mary and Joseph had privately given their hearts first to God, and only then in fraternal service to one another as mutually devoted spouses. Luke 1:26-56; St. Joseph as Seen by Mystics and Historians, Dr. Rosalie Turton, Ed., 908-689-8792. Mary's Immaculate Conception in the womb of St. Ann was in anticipation of our Reconciliation with our Father by the Passion and Death of their divine Son. Her "*Fiat*" in reply to Gabriel enabled the Incarnation of the Man-God, our Blessed Savior, and marked the "*in breaking*" of the Kingdom of God on earth. In Mary's "*Let it be done to me according to your will*" our Blessed Mother became the new Eve, to the new Adam of the Man-God then conceived of the Holy Spirit in her immaculate womb.

Mary corresponded perfectly with the gift of the presence of the Blessed Trinity given to her from her Immaculate Conception. Being "*Full of Grace*" she totally yielded her will to the Divine Will of our Father. This new Eve's complete submission to the Divine Will is the fruit of our Mother's total love for God and her perfect obedience and humility, which surely struck terror in the heart of lucifer and signaled the ruin of his rebellion. Of our Blessed Mother's many victories over lucifer and the "*Brotherhood of Darkness*" that serves him, perhaps the most impressive was that begun by her conversion of the Aztec people of Mexico. On 9 December 1531 she appeared to a native Christian convert, Juan Diego, on Tepeyac Hill in present day Mexico City. Several apparitions culminated in her giving him a bushel of Castellan roses which he found miraculously growing atop the hill. He wrapped them in his cloak or Tilma woven from cactus fiber and, as she ordered, delivered them to the Franciscan Bishop Fray Juan Zumarraga, with her wish that a church be built in her honor. Her miraculous image and pictographic messages found on the Tilma were instrumental in converting nine million souls in six years.

Let us joyfully celebrate these wonderful December feasts of Jesus and Mary!