



God Becomes Poor

This Advent I paged through old notebooks, “fishing” for reflections on the Christmas Mystery. When I was done, I strung my “catch” together for this column.

“There is in every human heart . . . an empty cradle, waiting for the birth of Christ to fill it.”

--Caryll Houselander

“In order that people might feel confidence that they can find God, and certainty that He will not desert them afterwards, He made Himself one of them and laid Himself in the arms of a Virgin, bound hand and foot in swaddling bands, so that He could not flee from those who came in quest of Him.”

--St. John of Avila

“The maker of man, He was made man, so that the Director of the Stars might be a babe at the breast; that Bread might be hungry and the Fountain thirsty; that the Light might sleep, and the Way be weary from a journey.”

--St. Augustine

“He who makes rich is made poor. He takes on the poverty of my flesh, that I may gain the riches of his divinity. He who is full is made empty . . . that I may share in His fullness.”

--St. Gregory Nazianzen

“. . . we should ask Him to come into our hearts . . . [and] reign in them forever. For to turn out such a guest would be shame beyond telling.”

--Jacopone da Todi

“The whole universe was created by God, and God was born of Mary. God created all things, and Mary gave birth to God. . . . God, who made all things, made Himself from Mary; and thus He re-made all that He had made. He who could make all things from nothing, did not will without Mary to re-make the things that were ruined. God, then, is the Father of things created, and Mary is the mother of things re-created. . . . For God begot Him through whom all things were made, and Mary gave birth to Him through whom all things were saved.”

--St. Anselm of Canterbury

[God the Father:] “. . . I have . . . told you all things in my Word, my Son, and . . . what answer or revelation can I now make that would surpass this? Fasten your eyes on Him alone, because in Him I have spoken and revealed all, and in Him you shall discover even more than you ask for and desire.”

--St. John of the Cross

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Who are we
That YOU have loved us
So well?”

--The St. Louis Jesuits