



Communion Letter. Christmas 2018

LET THE EARTH OPEN UP AND BLOSSOM WITH SALVATION Is 45,8

Yes! You are here. Everything makes sense

1.- The announcement of your visit. The whole Creation speaks of You. If our ears listen carefully, there is no muteness in what is created; if our eyes scrutinize the horizons there is no emptiness of you. Night or day, the blue air or the wind, the grass in the fields and the rapids of the rivers, mutter and whisper, and in the murmuring we can recognize You. Everything calls out your name, just like you at the beginning gave name and it came into being. Yes! The world reveals the mystery of your presence.

Each human being is the image of that invisible God we believe is there and to whom we talk, who refers to Him just by being in this world because it has been chosen as the privileged place for God's visit. God has made himself a house in this cosmos and in the human being.

We can track down this footprint to find You, but it is not enough for us because we always yearn for the face, the deepest hug, the living presence. You are still far away and that is why we urge your coming, that you will draw closer to us and visit us. If our shout weren't to be heard desperately, we would have to conform our life to this narrow and insufficient world, because we live half way between the idea of a reality that is far beyond the one we see and the temptation of conforming life to what we see, half way between looking far ahead of us or shortening our sight. We can't but urge You, or mute for ever.

Everything speaks of You announcing your visit. The Heavens will rain down from above and the earth will blossom with justice, the Lord will come (cf. Is 45, 8). Everything announces your visit. "Yes, I am coming soon" (Rev 22,7). And when Jesus, the Lord, comes, the distance between what is visible and invisible, what is immanent and transcendent, what is contingent and eternal, between the God who lives in Heaven and the man who lives on Earth, that distance will be shortened.

2.- You are here. The Creation awaits for You because it is only when You are present that it gains its most full meaning. You are here, and therefore everything is where it should be, and everything that is before You exists. When you call them they exist (cf. Bar 3,35); the stars go looking for you, their orbit finds rest in you; trees clap their hands, hills break into joyful cries (Is 55,12), angels sing your glory with joy (Lc 2, 14) and men, from every corner of the world, come together and prostrate before the Newborn Child (Mt 2,11).

The whole creation and mankind opens its womb to receive You. Animals give you warmth and shelter, men bring their work and their sorrows before You, their curd and honey; the mother wraps up and breast-feeds a God. The father holds the mystery with his humble welcome. Everything is before You. You have arrived and everything was waiting for You. God's visit in Jesus has made it possible for that which was invisible to be seen, what was untouchable, touched and taste the non created. And if men were not to sing at your coming, angels would sing. Because "there will be canticles, yes! In dark times"

If Jesus is born amongst us, chaos turns into cosmos once more, and life, even that of the most helpless and poor one of all creatures, has a reason and finds its destiny because the Son has come to this flesh and has spoused with it in an eternal covenant. The mountain top of salvation is this "ostrakón", this divine tessera in which God and man become one and fit together. In Jesus Christ, God and the human being have been reconciled, and it is precisely this truth that makes it possible to understand it all, assume it all, even this life, which, in its beauty, allows us to glimpse the unspeakable light and in its contingency is very unsatisfying. God is not an enemy for mankind, and mankind is not an enemy for God, they have become friends.

Our expectation has been fulfilled. But that isn't enough either, and that is why each year we remember what happened, image of a definite coming, in which unity will be welded for ever. You come and will come. You are and will be there where, with your coming, You take us.

3.- Receive Him. "We are waiting in hope for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Tit 2, 13). Mankind's answer before this luminous mystery can't be another but to welcome the Lord that comes, receive him here, in our daily life and in our personal, social, communitarian and ecclesiastical world. The God that comes, receive Him; The Lord that draws near, welcome Him. And let Him come in so that the miracle of reconciling communion between God and man, of men among them, may take place. We need to learn to receive, to open ourselves and leave the rigidity caused by fear, selfishness or anguish. Let us open, then, the gates of welcome (cf. Is 26, 1-6), let us receive the Lord that arrives and that asks to be welcomed and received by us.

Happy Nativity of the Lord!

Monastery of Conversion
Sotillo de la Adrada, Ávila

"And all things were born through you. The world is not nature shrouded in its own mystery, but your work. You conceived it and brought it into being. From you it has reality and strength, being and purpose, and you bore witness to it, calling it "good" and "very good".

I believe that all was created by you, O God.

Teach me to understand this truth.

It is the truth of existence,
and if it is forgotten, then all sinks into injustice and folly.

My heart has agreed to it.

I do not wish to live in my own right, but in freedom through you.

By my own efforts I have nothing; everything is a gift from you, and only becomes mine when I receive it from you.

Always I receive myself from your hand.

So it is, and so it should be.

That is my truth and my joy.

Your eye is seeing me always, and I live upon your gaze, my creator and my salvation.

Teach me, in the stillness of your presence, to understand the mystery that I am.

And that I am through you and before you and for you. Amen".

R. Guardini