

# Christmas Letter 2025

Archbishop Mark Gregorczyk

After Volunteering at the Escapees Care Center for the Elderly in Livingston, TX in December of 2024, I headed to Florida, down the West Coast side through Tampa and across the Everglades to Homestead, where I worked a 3-week Volunteer Project at a Church. I even made a one-day trip to Key West to see the sights. On some of the Bridges I crossed, it was amazing having the Water on one side of you extending to the Texas Coast, and on the other side, overseas.

Unfortunately, while working on this project, I lost my balance and fell off a ladder onto a concrete floor, spraining another one of my wrists. So, I cancelled my other Projects I was going to work and decided to go back to Campground Hosting, which is not so physical to do.

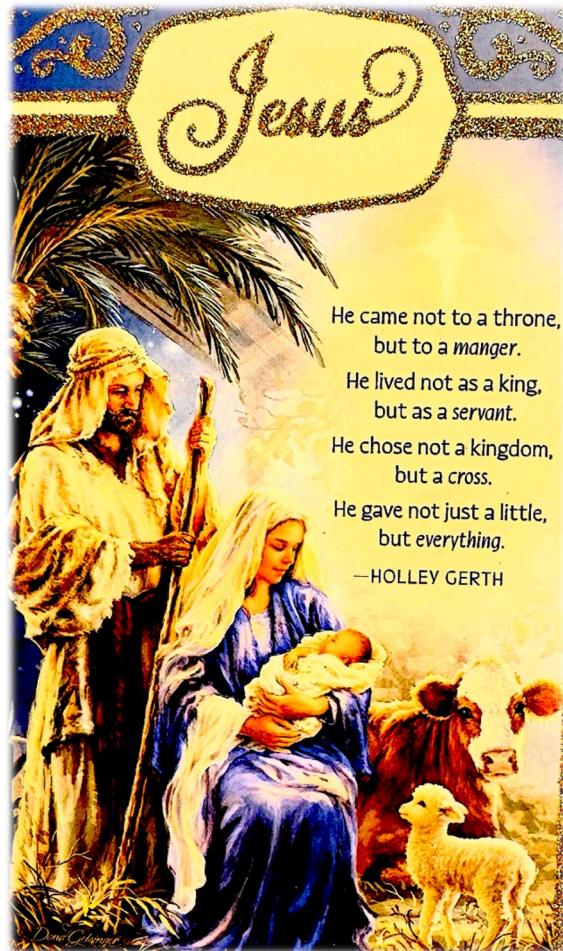
So, in February I headed North to St Mary's, GA, a seaside town on the water where I spent a couple of weeks in the parking lot of an all-Black Pentecostal Church. I then headed to Virginia, where I Campground Hosted at Staunton River State Park in March, and Kiptopeke State Park on the Virginia Peninsula in April.

In early May, I left and headed North all the way up the East Coast through Maine, and when I entered Canada, headed West to Lake Superior. I Campground Hosted here on the tip of the Peninsula that sticks up almost to the center of Lake Superior. This Lake is Deep and the Water is Very Cold. The shore around this Lake can receive 20 to 30 feet of snow in a Winter.

After leaving here, I headed through Wisconsin, Minnesota, and into North Dakota, where I Campground Hosted at the Theodore Roosevelt State Park. By September, I headed into Montana and then turned South and headed back to Cedaredge, Colorado, where my Father-in-Law lives.

In November, when the weather started to get Cold, I headed South down through Colorado and New Mexico to White Sands National Park and Missile Range.

By early December, I went back to Whitewater Draw, where 30,000 Sandhill Cranes migrate to in the Winter, some from as far as Siberia in Russia. I then stopped in Wilcox, Arizona, where I was initiated into the Elks Lodge Fraternity. I have also joined the Moose Lodge Fraternity,



and also the American Legion, since I am a Veteran. These Organizations will be able to provide overnight RV Parking at hundreds of locations across the United States, and even meals and club activities wherever I am traveling in the United States. It will be like having a second family wherever I travel.

I then headed to Las Cienegas Wildlife Conservation Area in Southern Arizona. This is my most favorite place to camp. In the mornings, I walk up on top of the Hills on this Prairie, and sometimes run into the Pronghorn Antelope up there, as well as the Black Tailed Prairie Dogs down in the Valleys.

I then headed to Yuma, Arizona where I will spend Christmas. There will even be a Christmas Day Pot Luck Dinner at the local Moose Lodge. I will also be meeting up with the Wandering Individuals Network too, RVers who live in their RVs full time and travel around the U.S. together.

This year accomplished another milestone for me. I have now traveled and been in 49 out of the 50 United States, and 4 Canadian Provinces so far. The only State I lack now is Hawaii.

But the Story is not complete without the true meaning of Christmas, so here it is, once again, the Story of the actual **Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ**:

After Mary and Joseph had made their way to Bethlehem, it had been ordained by God that no one in town would give them a place to stay, so after Joseph had given up looking for one, the small donkey they had brought with them from Nazareth, led them outside of town to a remote cave that had been used by the shepherds at times for their animals.

As it was getting dark now, Mary and Joseph and the 10,000 Angels that attended to Mary, set about to clean the cave. Joseph then prepared some food for them to eat, and after supper, Mary suggested that Joseph lay down and get some rest. Joseph was then wrapped in an Ecstasy, during which time, he saw all that had happened during the birth of our Lord that night.

Mary was kneeling near the Manger, the feeding trough for the animals, and was also wrapped up in a Divine Ecstasy and Transfigured in Divine Light. All the Demons in the world had been cast into the deepest recesses of Hell and not allowed to leave there, for this Mystery and Birth was not to be known to Satan, until after Christ's Crucifixion. And all of Heaven had been emptied of its Contents, for they were all present at this remote cave outside of Bethlehem.

When midnight approached, our Lord Jesus released Himself from inside of Mary, and came forth through her body, like an Angel can pass through solid walls. Since Mary was exempt from Original Sin, she did not have to go through Pain in Childbirth as all other women in the World. Her body, as Jesus's too, would not corrupt. Therefore, Jesus was not born with the covering that other children are born with, and the Placenta was reabsorbed by her body. Christ came forth Transfigured in Divine Light, like he had done on Mount Tabor, and as he came forth, the two Archangels Michael and Gabriel received him into their arms.

The Child Jesus now spoke to his mother: "Mother, become like to Me, since on this day, for the human existence, which you have today given Me, I will give you another more Exalted existence in Grace, assimilating your existence as a mere creature to the likeness of Me, who am God and Man."

And Mary answered: **Raise me, Elevate me, Lord, and I will run after You in the odor of your ointments.**

Then Mary heard the Eternal Father saying: "This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am greatly pleased and delighted"

And Mary Replied: "Eternal Father and Exalted God, Lord and Creator of the universe, give me anew your Permission and Benediction to receive in my arms the Desired of nations; and teach me to fulfill as your unworthy Mother and lowly slave, your Holy Will."

And the Eternal Father replied: "Receive your Only Be-gotten Son, imitate Him and rear Him; and remember, that you must Sacrifice Him when I shall demand it of you."

And the Divine Mother answered: "Behold the creature of your hands, adorn me with your Grace so that your Son and my God receive me for his slave; and if You will come to my aid with your Omnipotence, I shall be Faithful in his service; and do You count it no presumption in your insignificant creature, that she bear in her arms and nourish at her breast her own Lord and Creator."

The Divine Child then suspended the Miracle of his Transfiguration and assumed an appearance like other children. Mary, still kneeling, then received the Child Jesus into her arms from the two Archangels Michael and Gabriel.

Mary then spoke to her son: "My sweetest Love and light of my eyes and being of my Soul, You have arrived in good hour into this world as the Sun of Justice (Malach. 4, 2), in order to disperse the darkness of sin and Death! True God of the True God, save your servants and let all flesh see Him, who shall draw upon it Salvation (Is. 9, 2). Receive me your servant as your slave and supply my deficiency, in order that I may properly serve You. Make me, my Son, such as You desire me to be in your service."

Mary then spoke to the Eternal Father offering up her only begotten son: "Exalted Creator of all the Universe, here is the Altar and the Sacrifice acceptable in your eyes (Malachy 3, 4). From this hour on, O Lord, look upon the Human Race with Mercy; and inasmuch as we have deserved your anger, it is now time that You be appeased in your Son and mine. Let your Justice now come to rest, and let your Mercy be Exalted; for on this account the Word has clothed itself in the semblance of sinful flesh (Rom. 8, 3), and became a Brother of mortals and sinners (Philip 2, 7). In this title I recognize them as brothers and I intercede for them from my Inmost Soul. You, Lord, have made me the Mother of your Only Begotten without my merit, since this Dignity is above all merit of a creature; but I partly owe to men the occasion of this incomparable good fortune; since it is on their account that I am the Mother of the Word made man and Redeemer of them all. I will not deny them my Love, or remit my care and watchfulness for their Salvation. Receive, Eternal God, my wishes and petitions for that which is according to your pleasure and good will."

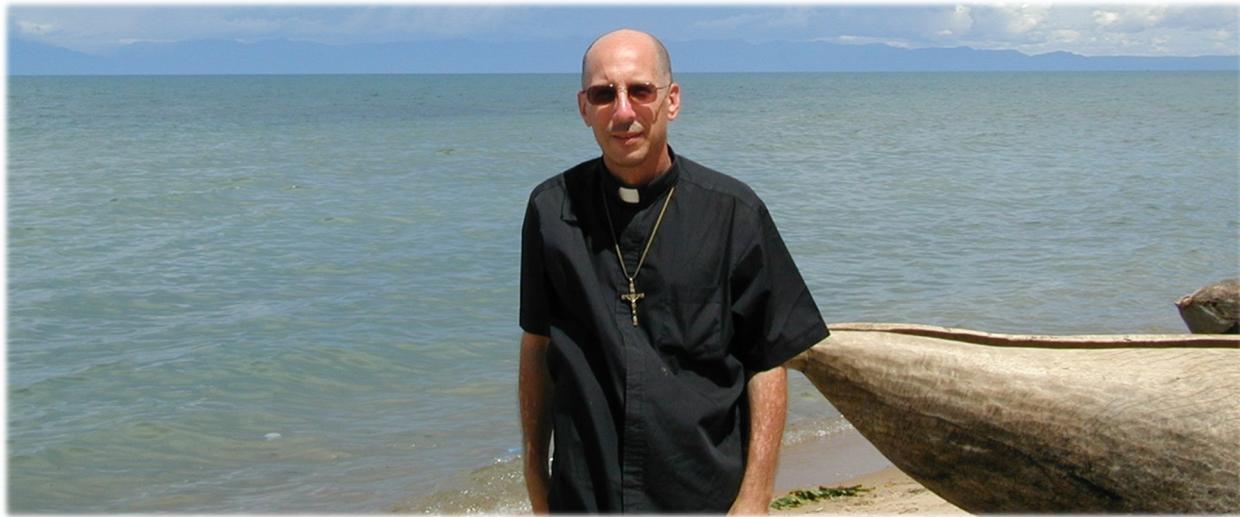
Mary then turned towards all Mortals saying: "Be consoled ye afflicted and rejoice ye disconsolate, be raised up ye fallen, come to rest ye uneasy. Let the just be gladdened and the Saints be rejoiced; let the Heavenly Spirits break out in new jubilee, let the Prophets and Patriarchs of limbo draw new Hope, and let all the generations Praise and magnify the Lord, who renews his Miracles. Come, come ye poor; approach ye little ones, without fear, for in my arms I bear the Lion made a lamb, the Almighty, become weak, the Invincible subdued. Come to draw Life, hasten to obtain Salvation, approach to gain Eternal Rest, since I have all this for all, and it will be given to you freely and communicated to you without envy. Do not be slow and heavy of heart, ye sons of men; and You, O sweetest Joy of my Soul, give me permission to receive from You that kiss desired by all creatures." Then, the Most Blessed Mother applied her most chaste and Heavenly lips in order to receive the Loving caresses of the Divine Child, who on his part, as her true Son, had desired them from Her.

Holding Him in Her arms Mary thus, served as the Altar and the Sanctuary, where the ten thousand Angels Adored in visible human forms their Creator Incarnate. And as the Most Blessed Trinity assisted in a special manner at the Birth of the Word, Heaven was as it were emptied of its inhabitants, for the whole Heavenly Court had betaken itself to that Blessed cave of Bethlehem and was Adoring the Creator in his garb and habit of a pilgrim (Phil. 2, 7). And in their concert of Praise the Holy Angels intoned the new canticle: "Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis" (Luke 2, 14). In sweetest and sonorous harmony, they repeated it, transfixed in Wonder at the New Miracles then being fulfilled and at the unspeakable Prudence, Grace, Humility and Beauty of that tender Maiden of fifteen years, who had become the Worthy Trustee and Minister of such Vast and Magnificent Sacraments.

Joseph was then allowed to wake up and See and Worship his Lord and God. Mary and Joseph then wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in the Manger. According to Divine ordainment an ox from the neighboring fields ran up in Great haste and, entering the cave, joined the beast of burden brought by the Queen. The Blessed Mother commanded them, with what show of Reverence was possible to them, to acknowledge and Adore their Creator. The Humble animals obeyed their Mistress and Prostrated themselves before the Child, warming Him with their breath and rendering Him the service refused by men. And thus, the God made Man was placed between two animals, wrapped in swaddling-clothes and wonderfully fulfilling the Prophecy, that "the ox knows his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel has not known me, and my people have not understood." **Isaiah 1:3**

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

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Now, as a Christmas Bonus, for anyone who wants to understand just a little more about the Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially for those who have had a Catholic Background at some point in their lives, I want to include a little information concerning the Life and Birth of Most Holy Mary, when God brought Her into the World and the events surrounding Her Birth. This Information is available to those who have the Courage to seek after it.

FYI: There is a Protestant Doctrine called "Sola Scriptura", which means "Only Scripture". A lot of Protestants are only willing to study the Bible and only certain approved books of the Bible in their Christian lives. They cling to the saying: "If the Bible Says It, I Believe It, and That Settles It", and are not willing to believe anything beyond what the Bible tells them.

That is OK, you can believe that, but this line of thinking is kind of like a person who has all his School Books in a Grade 3 level. He may want to obtain a Grade 12 Education, but the person will never be able to, as long as they are not willing to study beyond the Grade 3 level. As long as you are not willing to seek after the Truth, you will never find it.

Let me begin by saying: **"Mary is the Eternal Predestination of the Masterpiece of God's Hands."** This is Important! Before God created the World, or even the Angels, Mary existed in the Divine Mind of God. You see, God can foresee the Future, and he knew that once He created the World, the Angels, and Mankind, Adam and Eve would Sin and cutoff the Human Race from Eternal Life in Heaven. In other words, the Gates of Heaven were Barred and Shut off to Mankind once Adam and Eve had sinned.

So, God had a plan from the very beginning, to create a Perfect Woman, Unblemished and Exempt from all Sin, who would bear God's Son the second person of the Holy Trinity. Remember, Jesus, God's Son had already, with the Father, created the World and everything in it. And in creating Mary, God arranged every Chromosome in her body, in just the right order in creating her DNA, so that she was literally the most Perfect Human Being that would ever be created by God.

Mary did not know everything like God from the very beginning, for God kept revealing new Mysteries to her throughout her entire lifetime on earth, and by the time she was born, she had more knowledge than all the Prophets, Saints, and Priests that had ever existed in the

world up to this time. She could also speak as an infant, but would only do so in the presence of God and of the Angels. Even her mother did not know of her knowledge and her ability to speak as an infant.

At the age of 3, she told her Mother and Father that it was time for her to go live in the Temple with the other Virgins, whose lives were Consecrated to God. So, they called the Temple Priests to come talk to her, and the Priests Knowledge and Wisdom was no match for her. Therefore, she left her Parents and went to live in the Temple with God at the age of 3. Her Mother Saint Anne was kind of heart broken, for she only got to raise her for 3 years.

At Mary's Conception, she was assigned 1,000 Angels, even from the Highest Levels of the Seraphim, who she could see in Corporal Form, talk to and Worship God with, in Hymns, Songs, and Colloquies. Most of the time, she was the only person who could see and converse with these Angels.

At the Incarnation, when she became pregnant with Jesus, she was given another 9,000 Angels to See and Converse with from that time on. And once Jesus was living inside of her, Jesus and Mary had Interior Communication with each other. They could talk to each other. And Jesus performed hundreds, if not thousands of Miracles in the lives of people that Mary came into contact with while Pregnant, all of which were not recorded or written down in History. The Miracle of the Wedding at Cana, was just the first Public Miracle.

So, you can read it for yourselves, I now leave you with one Chapter from the Life of Mary:

## Chapter 21

### **Of The: Felicitous Birth Of The Most Holy Mary Our Mistress: Of The Favors, Which She; Then Received From The Hand Of The Most High, And How A Name Was Given Her In Heaven And On Earth.**

326. The day destined for the parturition of Saint Anne and for the birth of Her, who was Consecrated and Sanctified to be the Mother of God, had arrived: a day most fortunate for the world. This birth happened on the eighth day of September, fully nine months having elapsed since the Conception of the Soul of our Most Holy Queen and Lady. Saint Anne was prepared by an interior voice of the Lord, informing Her, that the hour of her parturition had come. Full of the Joy of the Holy Spirit at this information, she Prostrated herself before the Lord and besought the assistance of his Grace and his Protection for a happy deliverance. Presently she felt a movement in her Womb similar to that which is proper to creatures being born to the light. The Most Blessed child Mary was at the same time by Divine Providence and Power ravished into a Most High ecstasy. Therefore, Mary was born into the world without perceiving it by her senses, for their operations and faculties were held in suspense. As She had the use of her reason, She would have perceived it by her senses, if they

would have been left to operate in their natural manner at that time. However, the Almighty disposed otherwise, in order that the Princess of Heaven might be spared the sensible experience otherwise connected with birth.

327. She was born Pure and Stainless, Beautiful and Full of Grace, thereby demonstrating, that She was free from the Law and the tribute of sin. Although She was born substantially like other daughters of Adam, yet her birth was accompanied by such circumstances and conditions of Grace, that it was the most wonderful and Miraculous Birth in all creation and will Eternally redound to the Praise of her Maker. At twelve o'clock in the night this Divine Luminary issued forth, dividing the night of the Ancient Law and its pristine darkness from the New Day of Grace, which now was about to break into dawn. She was clothed, handled and dressed like other infants, though her Soul dwelt in the Divinity; and She was treated as an infant, though She excelled all mortals and even all the Angels in Wisdom. Her mother did not allow Her to be touched by other hands than her own, but she herself wrapped Her in swaddling clothes: and in this Saint Anne was not hindered by her present state of childbirth; for she was free from the toils and labors, which other mothers usually endure in such circumstances.

328. So then Saint Anne received in her arms Her, who was her Daughter, but at the same time the most exquisite Treasure of all the Universe, inferior only to God and Superior to all other Creatures. With Fervent tears of Joy she offered this Treasure to his Majesty, saying Interiorly: "**Lord of Infinite Wisdom and Power, Creator of all that exists, this Fruit of my womb, which I have received of your bounty, I offer to You with Eternal Thanks, for without any Merit of mine You have granted it to me. Dispose You of the mother and Child according to your Most Holy Will and look propitiously down upon our lowness from your Exalted Throne. Be You Eternally Blessed, because You have enriched the world with a Creature so pleasing to your bounty and because in Her You have prepared a dwelling place and a Tabernacle for the Eternal Word (Sap. 9, 8). I tender my congratulations to my Holy Forefathers and to the Holy Prophets, and in them to the whole Human Race, for this sure pledge of Redemption, which You have given them. But how shall I be able worthily to treat Her, whom You have given me as a Daughter? I am not worthy to be her servant? How shall I handle the True Ark of the Testament? Give me, O my Lord and King, the necessary Enlightenment to know Your Will and to execute it according to your pleasure in the service of my Daughter.**"

329. The Lord answered the Holy Matron Interiorly, that she was to treat her Heavenly Child outwardly as mothers treat their daughters, without any demonstration of Reverence; but to retain this Reverence inwardly, fulfilling the Laws of a true mother toward Her, and rearing Her up with all motherly Love and Solicitude. All this the happy mother complied with; making use of this permission and her mother's rights without losing her reverence, she regaled herself with her Most Holy Daughter, embracing and caressing Her in the same way as other mothers do with their daughters. But it was always done with a proper Reverence and consciousness

of the Hidden and Divine Sacrament, known only to the mother and Daughter. The Guardian Angels of the Sweet Child with others in Great Multitudes showed their Veneration and Worship to Mary as She rested in the arms of her mother; they joined in Heavenly music, some of which was audible also to Blessed Anne. The Thousand Angels appointed as guardians of the Great Queen offered themselves and dedicated themselves to her service. This was also the first time, in which the Heavenly Mistress saw them in a Corporeal form with their devises and habiliments, as I shall describe in another chapter (Ch. XXIII) and the Child asked them to join with Her in the Praise of the Most High and to Exalt Him in her name.

330. At the moment of the birth of our Princess Mary the Most High sent the Archangel Gabriel as an envoy to bring this Joyful News to the Holy Fathers in Limbo. Immediately the Heavenly ambassador descended, illumining that deep cavern and rejoicing the just who were detained therein. He told them that already the dawn of Eternal Felicity had commenced and that the Reparation of man, which was so earnestly desired and expected by the Holy Patriarchs and foretold by the Prophets, had been begun, since She, who was to be the Mother of the Messiah, had now been born; soon would they now see the Salvation and the Glory of the Most High. The Holy prince gave them an understanding of the Excellence of the Most Holy Mary and of what the Omnipotent had begun to work in Her, in order that they might better comprehend the happy beginning of the Mystery, which was to end their prolonged imprisonment. Then all the Holy Patriarchs and Prophets and the rest of the just in limbo rejoiced in Spirit and in new Canticles Praised the Lord for this benefit.

331. All these happenings at the birth of our Queen succeeded each other in a short space of time. The first exercise of her senses in the light of the material sun, was to recognize her parents and other creatures. **The arms of the Most High began to work new Miracles in Her far above all conceptions of men, and the first and most stupendous one was to send innumerable Angels to bring the Mother of the Eternal Word Body and Soul into the Empyrean Heaven for the fulfilling of his further Intentions regarding Her.** The Holy princes obeyed the Divine mandate and receiving the child Mary from the arms of her Holy Mother Anne, they arranged a new and Solemn Procession bearing Heavenward with incomparable songs of Joy the true Ark of the Covenant, in order that for a short time it might rest, not in the house of Obededon, but in the Temple of the King of kings and of the Lord of lords, where later on it was to be placed for all Eternity. This was the second step, which Most Holy Mary made in her Life, namely, from this earth to the Highest Heaven. (*Since Mary was exempted from Sin through her Immaculate Conception, she was the only Human Being that could enter Heaven, which was barred and shut after Adam had sinned.*)

332. Who can worthily extol this wonderful prodigy of the Right Hand of the Almighty? Who can describe the Joy and the Admiration of the celestial Spirits, when they beheld this new and wonderful work of the Most High, and when they gathered to Celebrate it in their songs? In these songs they acknowledged and Reverenced as their Queen and Mistress, Her, who was to be the Mother of their Lord, and the source

of the Grace and Glory, which they possessed; for it was through his foreseen Merits, that they had been made the recipients of the Divine bounty. But above all, what human tongue, or what mortal could ever describe or comprehend the heart-secrets of that tender Child during these events? I leave the imagination of all this to Catholic Piety, and still more to those who in the Lord are favored with an understanding of it, but most of all to those who, by Divine bounty shall have arrived at the Beatific Vision face to face.

**333. Borne by the hands of the Angels the child Mary entered the Empyrean Heaven where She Prostrated Herself full of Love before the Royal Throne in the presence of the Most High.** Then (according to our way of understanding), was verified what long before had happened in figure, when Bethsabee entered into the presence of her son Solomon, who, while presiding over his people of Israel, arose from his Throne, received her with Honor and Reverence, and seated her at his side as queen. Similarly, but in a more Glorious and Admirable manner, the person of the Divine Word now received the child Mary, whom He had chosen as Mother, as Queen of the universe. Although her real Dignity and the purpose of these ineffable Mysteries were unknown to Mary, yet her infant faculties were strengthened by Divine Power for the proper reception of these Favors. New Graces and Gifts were bestowed upon Her, by which her faculties were correspondingly elevated. Her powers of mind, besides being illumined and prepared by new Grace and light, were raised and proportioned to the Divine manifestation, and the Divinity displayed Itself in the new light granted, revealing Itself to Her intuitively and clearly in a most Exalted manner. This was the first time in which the Most Holy Soul of Mary saw the Blessed Trinity in unveiled Beatific Vision.

334. The sole witnesses of the Glory of Mary in this Beatific Vision, of the Sacraments then again revealed to Her, of the Divine effect that overflowed into her Most Pure Soul, was God the Author of this unheard-of wonder, and the astounded Angels, who in some measure perceived these Mysteries in God Himself. The Queen seated at the side of the Lord, who was to be her Son, and seeing Him face to face, was more successful in her Prayer than Bethsabee (III Kings, 2, 21). For She Prayed, that He bestow the untouched Sunamite Abisag, his in accessible Divinity, upon his sister, Human Nature; She Prayed that his promised coming from Heaven to the earth and his Marriage with Human Nature by the Hypostatic Union be fulfilled in the person of the Word. Many (times had He pledged Himself to it among men through the ancient Patriarchs and Prophets and now Mary besought Him to accelerate the Reparation of the Human Race, expected for so many ages amid the multiplied iniquity and the ruin of souls. The Most High heard this most pleasing petition of his Mother, and acting more graciously than Solomon of old toward his mother, He assured Her that soon his promises should be fulfilled, and that He should descend to the world in order to assume and Redeem Human Nature.

335. In this Divine consistory and Tribunal of the Most Holy Trinity it was determined to give a name to the Child Queen. As there is no proper and legitimate name, except

it be found in the Immutable Being of God himself (for from it are participated and determined according to their right weight and measure all things in Infinite Wisdom) his Majesty wished himself to give and impose that name in Heaven. He thereby made known to the Angelic Spirits, that the three Divine Persons, had decreed and formed the sweet names of Jesus and Mary for the Son and Mother from the beginning before the ages, and that they had been delighted with them and had engraved them on their Eternal memories to be as it were the Objects for whose service, They should create all things. Being informed of these and many other Mysteries, the Holy Angels heard a voice from the Throne speaking in the person of the Father: "Our chosen One shall be called MARY, and this name is to be Powerful and Magnificent. Those that shall invoke it with devout Affection shall receive most abundant Graces; those that shall Honor it and pronounce it with Reverence shall be consoled and vivified, and will find in it the remedy of their evils, the Treasures for their enrichment, the light which shall guide them to Heaven. It shall be terrible against the Power of Hell; it shall crush the head of the serpent and it shall win Glorious victories over the princes of Hell." The Lord commanded the Angelic Spirits to announce this Glorious name to Saint Anne, so that what was decreed in Heaven might be executed on earth. **The Heavenly Child, lovingly Prostrate before the Throne, rendered most acceptable and human Thanks to the Eternal Being; and She received the name with Most Admirable and Sweet Jubilation.** If the prerogatives and Graces, which She then was favored with, were to be described, it would necessitate an extra book of many volumes. **The Holy Angels Honored and Acknowledged Most Holy Mary as the Future Mother of the Word and as their Queen and Mistress enthroned at the Right Hand of her Son; they showed their Veneration of her Holy Name, Prostrating themselves as it proceeded from the Throne in the voice of the Eternal Father, especially those, who had it written on the devises over their breast. All of them gave forth Canticles of Praise for these Great and Hidden Mysteries.** In the meanwhile the infant Queen remained ignorant of the real cause of all that She thus, experienced, for her Dignity of Mother of the Incarnate Word was not revealed to Her till the time of the Incarnation. With the same reverential Jubilee did the Angels return in order to replace Her into the arms of Holy Anne, to whom this event remained a secret, as was also the absence of her Daughter; for a guardian Angel, assuming an aerial body, supplied her place for this very purpose. More than that, during a Great part of the time in which the Heavenly Child remained in the Empyrean Heaven, her mother was wrapped in an ecstasy of Highest Contemplation, and in it, although she did not know what was happening to the Child, Exalted Mysteries concerning the Dignity of Mother of God, to which She was to be chosen, were revealed to her. The Prudent matron kept them enshrined within her breast, conferring them in her thoughts with the duties she owed to her Child.

336. On the eighth day after the birth of the Great Queen multitudes of most beautiful Angels in splendid array descended from on High bearing an escutcheon on which the name of MARY was engraved and shone forth in Great Brillancy. Appearing to the Blessed Mother Anne, they told her, that the name of her daughter was to be

MARY, which name they had brought from Heaven, and which Divine Providence had selected and now Ordained to be given to their child by Joachim and herself. The Saint called for her husband and they conferred with each other about this disposition of God in regard to the name of their Daughter. The more than happy father accepted the name with Joy and devout Affection. They decided to call their relatives and a Priest and then, with much Solemnity and festivity, they imposed the name of MARY on their Child. The Angels also Celebrated this event with most sweet and ravishing music, which, however, was heard only by the mother and her Most Holy Daughter. **Thus, was the Divine Princess named by the Holy Trinity: in Heaven, on the day of her Nativity, and on earth, after eight days.** This name was written in the list of other names, when her mother presented herself at the Temple according to the Law, as I will relate further on. This was the birth, like to which none had been before, and the like of which cannot again happen in mere creatures. **This was the Most Blessed Birth of which Nature was capable, for by it an Infant came into existence, whose entrance into the world was not only free from all impurities of sin, but who was more Pure and Holy than the Highest Seraphim.** The birth of Moses was Celebrated on account of the beauty and handsomeness of the infant (Exod. 2, 2); all his beauty was only corruptible and apparent. But O how beautiful is our Great Child! O how beautiful (Cant. 7, 6)! She is entirely beautiful and most sweet in her delights, since She is possessed of all Grace and beauty, without being lacking in any. The laughter and the Joy of the house of Abraham was the birth of the promised Isaac (Genes. 21, 6), conceived in a sterile womb, but this Joy was Great only because it foreshadowed and was derived from the birth of our infant Queen, toward which all this Joy of Abraham was only a step. If that birth was so Admirable and full of Joy for the family of the Patriarch because it was a foreshadowing of the birth of sweetest Mary, Heaven and earth should rejoice at the birth of Her, who gave a beginning to the restoration of Heaven and the Sanctification of the world. When Noah was born, his father Lamech was consoled (Genes. 5, 29), because in that son God had provided a progenitor of the Human Race in the Ark and assured a restoration of the Blessings, which the sins of men had forfeited. But all this happened merely as a type to foreshadow the birth of this Child, who was to be the True Reparatrix, being the Mystical Ark which contained the new and true Noah and which drew Him down from Heaven, who was to fill with Benediction all the inhabitants of the earth. O Blessed Birth! O Joyful Nativity! The most pleasing to the Blessed Trinity in all the ages of the past, the Joy of the Angels, the Relief of Sinners, the Delight of the Just, and the singular Consolation of all the Holy Souls in Limbo!

337. O precious and rich Pearl, that did come forth to the light of the sun, still enclosed within the rough shell of this world! O sublime Infant, who, though scarcely noticed by terrestrial eyes in the material light, yet in the eyes of the Highest King and his courtiers, excel all that is not God in Dignity and Grandeur! All generations Bless You, all the nations recognize and Praise your Grace and Beauty! Let the earth be made illustrious by your birth, let mortals be rejoiced because their Mediatrix is born,

who will fill up the vast emptiness of Original Sin. Let your gracious condescension toward me be Blessed and Extolled, who am the most abject dust and ashes. Author: If You give me permission, O my Lady, to speak in your presence, I will propose a doubt which occurred to me in describing the Mystery of your most Admirable and Holy birth, namely: regarding an act of the Almighty at the hour of your coming forth into the material light of the sun.

338. And this is the doubt: How are we to understand your being raised in your body by the hands of the Holy Angels into the Empyrean Heavens and to the Vision of God? For according to the teaching of the Holy Church and her doctors, Heaven was closed and as it were interdicted to man, until your Most Holy Son should open it through his Life and Death, and until He himself, as Redeemer and Chief, should enter it on the day of his Admirable Ascension, He being the first one for whom these Eternal portals were to be opened after their being closed up by sin?

#### **ANSWER AND INSTRUCTION OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN**

*Instruction from the Virgin Mary to the Author who wrote this down this History for us.*

339. My Dearest daughter, it is true, that Divine Justice closed Heaven against mortals on account of the first sin, until my Most Holy Son should open it by satisfying most abundantly for men through his earthly Life and Death. It was befitting and just, that this same Redeemer, who had united to Himself the redeemed members and opened Heaven, should as their Chief enter before any of the children of Adam. If Adam had not sinned, it would not have been necessary to follow this course; for men would have ascended of themselves in order to enjoy the Divinity in the Empyrean Heavens; having however foreseen the fall of man, the Most Blessed Trinity provided for the course followed at present. This Great Mystery was referred to by David in the twenty-third psalm, when speaking of the Spirits of Heaven he repeats twice "Lift up, you princes, your gates; and be you lifted up, you, Eternal gates, and the King of Glory shall enter in." They are here called the gates of the Angels, because only for them were they open, but for mortal men they were closed. Although these Heavenly Courtiers were aware of the fact that the Incarnate Word had already thrown back the bars and bolts of guilt, and that He was now ascending rich and Glorious with the spoils of Death and sin, bringing with Him the fruits of his Passion in the accompanying Hosts of the Glorious Saints released from limbo; nevertheless the Holy Angels give vent to their Admiration and breathless suspense at this wonderful novelty, asking: "Who is this King of Glory?" For He was a man and of the same Nature as the one who had lost for himself and for all his race the right to enter into Heaven.

340. They themselves give answer to the question saying: "The Lord who is strong and Mighty; the Lord Mighty in battle," the Lord of Virtues, the King of Glory. This was as if they confessed their conviction, that this Man, who was now coming up from the world in order to open the Eternal gates, was not a mere man and is not included under the Law of sin; but that He was True God and true man, who, strong and powerful in battle, had overcome the strong-armed one (Luc. 11, 22), that reigned in

the world, had taken away his reign and despoiled him of his weapons. And He was the Lord of Virtues, as one that had exercised them as a Master, with Sovereignty over them and without any contradiction of sin and defect. As the Lord of Virtues and as the Lord of Glory, He now came in Triumph, distributing Virtues and Glory to his redeemed, for whom as man He had Suffered and died, and whom as God He was now raising up to the Eternal and Beatific Vision, having broken the bars and shackles imposed by sin.

341. Since this, O Soul, was the work of my dear Son, the True God and man, He, as the Lord of Virtues and Graces, Exalted and adorned me with them from the first moment of my Immaculate Conception. And as, moreover, the hindrance of sin touched me not, I was free from the impediments which prevented other mortals from entering into the Eternal Gates of Heaven; on the contrary the powerful arm of my Son acted with me as being the Mistress of all Virtues and as the Queen of Heaven. Because He was to vest Himself and assume to Himself Human Nature from my flesh and Blood, He was beforehand in preparing me and making me like Himself in Purity and exemption from fault and in other Divine Gifts and privileges. As I was not a slave of sin, I exercised the Virtues not as a subject, but as a Mistress, without contradiction, but with Sovereignty, not like the children of Adam, but like the Son of God, who was also my Son.

342. For these reasons the celestial Spirits, who had possession of the Eternal gates as their own, opened them up for me, perceiving that the Lord had created me more Pure than all the most Exalted Spirits in Heaven, and made me their Queen, and the Mistress of all creation. Remember also, my Dearest, that he who makes the Law can also dispense with it freely, and this the Supreme Lord and Legislator did with me, extending the scepter of his clemency toward me more readily than Assuerus did to Esther. For the common Laws regarding others and consequent on their guilt, applied not to me, who was to be the Mother of the Author of Grace. Although I could not, as a mere creature, Merit such Blessed privileges, yet the Divine clemency and Goodness of God turned toward me with full liberality and He was pleased with the Humility of his servant, in order that for all Eternity the Author of such prodigies might be Praised. Also, my Daughter, according to my directions, Bless and magnify Him for these benefits bestowed upon me.

343. My admonition to you, whom in spite of your weakness and Poverty I have chosen with such generous Kindness as my disciple and companion, is this: that you strive with all your powers to imitate me in an exercise, in which I persevered during my whole Life from the very first moment of my birth, omitting it on not a single day, however full of cares and labors it might have been. This exercise was the following: every day at beginning of dawn, I Prostrated myself in the presence of the Most High and gave Him Thanks and Praise for his Immutable Being, his Infinite Perfections, and for having created me out of nothing; acknowledging myself as his creature and the work of his hands, I Blessed Him and Adored Him, giving Him Honor, Magnificence and Divinity, as the Supreme Lord and Creator of myself and of all that exists. I raised up

my Spirit to place it into his hands, offering myself with profound Humility and resignation to Him and asking Him to dispose of me according to His Will during that day and during all the days of my Life, and to teach me to fulfill whatever would be to his greater pleasure. This I repeated many times during the external Works of the day, and in the internal ones I first consulted his Majesty, asking his advice, permission and Benediction for all my actions.

344. Be very devout toward my most sweet name. I wish that you be convinced of the Great prerogatives and privileges, which the Almighty concedes to it, so that I myself, when I saw them in the Divinity, felt most deeply obliged and solicitous to make a proper return; and whenever the name MARY occurred to my mind (which happened often) and whenever I heard myself called by that name, I was aroused to Thankfulness and urged to new Fervor in the service of the Lord, who gave it to me. You have the same name and I wish, that in proportion it should cause the same effects in you and that you imitate me faithfully by following the lesson given you in this chapter, without failing in the least point from this day onward. And if in your weakness you should fail, rouse yourself immediately, and in the presence of your Lord and mine, acknowledge your fault, Confessing it in Sorrow. Repeating these Holy Exercises over and again with solicitous care, you shall find forgiveness for imperfections and grow accustomed to strive after what is Highest in all Virtues and most pleasing to the Lord. Then, following the light which He gives and in pursuance of that which is most pleasing and agreeable to your own tastes and mine, you shall not be denied the Grace of employing yourself entirely in listening, attending to and obeying in all things your Spouse and Lord, who seeks in you only what is Most Pure, Most Holy and perfect, and a will prompt and eager to put the same into practice.

May the Lord Richly Bless You All This Christmas!

Father Mark

## The Mystical City of God

Written between 1655 & 1665 by  
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