

Fr. Romeo Evangelista's Homily  
December 25, 2019  
Christmas (A)

Chris saw his uncle after Christmas and wanted to thank him for the electric guitar he gave him as a Christmas gift. "It's the best present I ever got!", he said to his uncle.

"That's great", said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."

The best gift indeed, its income generating.

Well we received our best gift today – Jesus himself. During Advent, we relive the longing of the chosen people for the coming of the Savior. On Christmas Day, we joyfully celebrate his birth in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, namely, "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone...For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." Thus Advent flows naturally into Christmas.

Yet what surprises us is that despite this well-known prophecy, when the royal infant was finally born, except for a few appropriately called the "remnants" the chosen people did not realize that the event they had long awaited had already taken place in their midst. Perhaps it was because of the pitiful circumstances of Jesus' birth which they never expected of someone who was called by Isaiah the "Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace."

The birth of this Prince of Peace is nothing spectacular. His parents are ordinary people. He was born in a very ordinary place under ordinary circumstances and yet God chose to reveal Himself in that way. God's way is indeed not our way nor His thoughts our thoughts.

With the ordinary birth of our Lord, He wanted to show us that indeed He is Emmanuel – the God with Us. He is always with us in every way. He is always with us even in the ordinary and simple things that happen in our lives. All we need to do is to find the presence of God in the ordinariness of our lives.

Like the people in Jesus' time somehow we fail to recognize His presence, His revelation in our lives because we are expecting something supernatural, something big.

With the eyes of faith we know God is always with us. Coming to work every day, or coming to Sunday liturgy is somewhat very ordinary, and yet God is there constantly revealing Himself to us

My dear friends it is by recognizing God's presence in simple and ordinary things that we can truly experience the joy that we long for in our hearts. It is the joy that will help us continue to do our mission to love. Our mission to make God's presence alive in the hearts of his people.

If you have that joy in your heart you will always **See Miracles In Life Every Day**. (SMILE). I hope you will be able to find that joy and share it with others.

My prayers for all of you is that you may experience the joy, hope, peace and love in your hearts this Christmas season. Merry Christmas!