

## A CHILD WAS BORN FOR US

*Rev. Paulo Staut, CSS (\*)*

Soon we are going to celebrate Christmas. Wherever we go, we already find a Christmas environment: Nativity scenes, decorated trees, Advent garland and many lights. Hope shares with joy. Everything around the birth of a child who wants to be “**GOOD NEWS**”. And this is just the Christmas spirit: welcome the good news. For so we need to follow the example of the shepherds, as they are the first ones who have open ears and attentive eyes to see in that child the source of our salvation. They are the shepherds, the last of the world, who search and find him. The experience of the shepherds of Bethlehem is open to all of us, if we are simple and pure as them. Such as, we also can, like them, to see the light, get born again, start a different existence. For so, our Christmas needs to be free of that sentimentality made of empty gifts and shop windows full of goods. It needs to be discovered as the great birth:

- Birth of the Son of God in the interior of our heart, of our history and of our homes;
- Birth of all the Christians to the light, to the peace, to the joy to be son of God;
- Birth of fraternity between all the human beings, sons of the same Father and brothers of Jesus in the flesh.

Living this way the Christmas season, we are celebrating the light that illuminates our darkness: “The people who lived in the darkness saw a great light!” In this way, the great news of the Nativity scene, which fill of tenderness the hearts of so many people in the Christmas season is the divestment of God, becoming Himself accessible, up to vulnerable. It is the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, poor between the poor, assuming our human condition. And between the straws of his crib, the God-Child points out to us a strong appeal to the solidarity among us, above all in this end of millenium. It is a God who visits us with simplicity, who wants to be reminded in the children, in the little ones, without defense.

May this Christmas celebration be a strong moment of reflection about our Christian life and our presence in the world. May the light that rises from the crib to illuminate all of us, teaching us not only to be the little ones, but mainly to be committed with them.

Merry Christmas and a New Year full of hope.



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