



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA
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POPE FRANCIS NEW YEAR MESSAGE IS VERY INSPIRING

Pope Francis writes: You can have flaws, be anxious, and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you. Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, and relationships without disappointments. To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, and security in the stage of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with the applause, but to be happy in anonymity.

Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves. To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul. It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life. Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no". It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified. It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us. To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple. It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes". It is to have the courage to say "I am sorry". It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you".

It is to have the ability to say "I love you". May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness ... That in spring may it be a lover of joy. In winter a lover of wisdom. And when you make a mistake, start all over again. For only then will you be in love with life. You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your losses to train patience. Use your mistakes to sculptor serenity. Use pain to plaster pleasure. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence. Never give up.... Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show. Happy New Year! Pope Francis.

WE SPIRITUALLY EXISTED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, teaches us something very powerful and revealing today. It should make us sit up and listen because he tells us that; *Before the world was made, He [God] chose us*, This means that before we were formed in our mother's womb, we already existed! Before the world began, we already spiritually existed in the mind of God, the Word, in Heaven. Our origin and existence began in Heaven and that is why we acknowledge that our true Home is Heaven and not earth. The Wisdom spoken in the First Reading of the Book of Ecclesiasticus today, reveals to us that our sole purpose in this earthly life is to someday return to this Heavenly Home with our spiritual nature formed in the image of Christ.

OUR INHERITANCE IS HEAVEN

This Heavenly Home is our inheritance, which is the Will of God, just like a parent Wills a family home (house) to their children. For our spiritual nature (our souls) to return safely to Heaven, St Paul reminds us that we were born into this world *to be holy and spotless (avoid sin), and to live through Love, in God's Presence, because we are God's adopted children*, through our Brother Jesus, from our baptism. God is Divine Wisdom, and if we surrender our will to Him, then He will *enlighten the eyes of our minds*, so that we can see our purpose and understand our vocation in this life, which is paved with Hope of the Resurrection from the Dead, in order to return to the eternal Light of Heaven and not the eternal Darkness of somewhere else.

JESUS ALWAYS EXISTED

Today's Gospel (Jn 1:1-18) is the one 'used' in the Christmas morning Mass, because it reveals Jesus' identity and origin. *In the beginning was the Word*. St. John is telling us that Jesus always existed before His human birth. Because if God is the Heavenly Word, then that Word (God) became Human Flesh, visible in the form of Jesus Christ. The Ever existing invisible God, whose Word was heard through the prophets, over thousands of years, and in the Garden of Eden, now becomes visible and is seen speaking in the Human Person of God, but calls Himself Jesus, coming as the Son of the Trinitarian Being. If Jesus is the Word made Flesh, then He always existed, just as we existed in our spiritual nature, before the world began.

SHARING IN GOD'S DIVINE NATURE

St John tells us that those of us who *accept Him*, He gave power for us *to become Children of God*. This means we gladly share in His Divine Nature because He came into the world and humbly shared in our human nature to personally give us a message and a mission. Sadly, many children of God, want nothing to do with Him. Our Lady of Fatima's message is to pray for the conversion of the unbelievers who are *indifferent* (numb/cold) to God's presence and live their lives in an *outrages and sacrileges* manner. These are Mary's words and she implores us to pray the Rosary everyday to bring Conversion and Peace to our families and the world. May we open our mind allowing God to grant us an ever-growing understanding of Himself, the Word, as unveiled for us in the Life and Words of Jesus who brings Peace. God bless and a Peaceful New Year, Fr. Brendan.

PS. The Church will be fitted soon with a Camera Online Mass Service