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### Suggested Materials:

- (1) *Waiting for Christ* (Book) by St. John Henry Newman;
- (2) *Brother Francis* (Audio) by Augustine Institute;
- (3) *Don't Give up, Give Thanks!* (Audio CD) by Ascension Press;
- (4) *Renewing Our Hope: Essays for the New Evangelization* (Book) by Bishop Robert Barron;
- (5) *Life is Worth Living* (Audio CD) by Fulton Sheen.

For more resources visit [www.bmjsajonas.com](http://www.bmjsajonas.com)

**Pilgrimages:** If you are interested in the near future to join a pilgrimage, you can email Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas to inquire. You can also check the upcoming activities of Fr. Millan at <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/upcoming-activities> Let us continue to pray for one another! God bless you!

**Faith Formation:** For online resources, please visit <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/adult-faith-formation>

### Next issue's contents:

Luke 15:8-10: The parable of the lost coin; getting to know a catholic devotion; Bible Study, resources for faith formation, and much more...

### Editors:

Fr. Millan Sajonas (SK, Canada),  
Matthew Allen Newland, PhD (QC, Canada),  
and Sr. Mariette Bilodeau (SK, Canada).

# IN MINISTERIO DEI ET VERBI SUI

IMDVS December 2020



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*"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

Greetings of peace, joy and love in this holy season of Christmas!

God's love is overflowing that He sent His only Son to redeem us. Christmas draws us close to the manger where we remember the gift of God to humanity. God has made His dwelling among us in and through Jesus. During Christmas, we hope to renew ourselves, filling us with joy, love, and peace so that in turn, we may become beacons of life and blessings to others.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us not forget the reason for this season, *our Lord Jesus Christ*. In the Scripture, let us read the story of the birth of Christ so that we may again be inspired. Remember the unconditional love of God. Let us treasure our experiences with the Lord in our respective circumstances. May these moments with the Lord give us the reason for giving ourselves, inciting us to love and serve Him with increased generosity.

Renewed and inspired, we go on with our day-to-day activities, glorifying, praising and thanking God for all the wonderful things that we have heard, seen and experienced in this holy season. May we grow in our relationship with God and yield a rich increase of love to our brothers and sisters for His greater glory!

A mass will be offered for your intention on the 28th of December!

Have a joyous Christmas and grace-filled New Year!

In Christ,

Fr. Bernabe Millan J. Sajonas

## **Luke 13:20-21: The Parable of the Leaven**

By Fr. Bernabe Millan J. Sajonas

The Kingdom of God has been compared to different things and events. One of these images is yeast mixed with three measures of flour. In adding the yeast to the flour, the yeast acts as the agent, making the bread dough rise. Thus, the product is leavened bread. If used as a comparison, the yeast is like God's grace; a gift accessible to all. Whoever participates in God's grace can build the Kingdom of God in one's self, by making use of the talents and capabilities which God has already given to each and every one of us. In doing so, the Kingdom of God grows in us not through our own efforts but completely depending upon God's goodness. Cooperation and acceptance is what God expects from us.

Moreover, when we come to reflect on it, what is the purpose of bread? It is nourishment for the body as food. It is not only the person for whom God's Kingdom grows that benefits but all the ones who encounter a person within whom the Kingdom of God has taken roots through good and charitable deeds. As such, the Kingdom of God is contagious and may take hold of others too through the witness of those who are persevering in living and witnessing to it. When there are many who make the effort to live according to the standards of God's Kingdom, then, the Kingdom of God becomes a realization here on earth. Yet, we still wait for its fulfillment with the coming of the Lord.

If we pray, the yeast of God's grace fills us so that we may rise like the leavened bread. It is the fulfillment of one's self by participating in God's grace, leading to growth in a relationship with Him. Moreover, God's Kingdom is more realized when, like our Saviour, the Bread of Life, our leavened Bread, becomes a real witness of others. This is what happens when we share in the life of Christ. In turn, it takes hold of us and with whom we share it. We want to join in a lived relationship with God, endeavoring to make God's Kingdom real here on earth as we eagerly await for its promise of completion in heaven.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Are you aware of God's grace helping you? How?
2. Do you consider it a labor to participate in God's grace? Why or why not?
3. What do you do to make the Kingdom of God take hold of you and rise within you?
4. How do you become a witness for God's Kingdom?
5. Do you contribute to the realization of God's Kingdom here on earth? How?

## **Devotion to the Saints**

Our belief is that saints are those who are closest to God because they have attained a relationship with Him through exemplary, holy, and heroic lives. Saints are not perfect persons but they strive to live in God's grace, persevering unto the end. There are multitude of saints recognized by the Church, including the many unknown men and women who lived their lives in obscurity with faithfulness to God and abounding in charitable deeds.

There are different devotions for the saints such as novenas, Masses, and festivities where they are honored. These devotions celebrate their stories, and the good deeds they performed in their earthly lives. Through their witness in words and deeds, God is made known to others. Devotions to the saints help us to meditate and reflect on how they have persevered in their respective circumstances, and succeeded in attaining blessedness.

We venerate the saints, remembering their holy lives. We ask their intercessions to pray for us and to bring our petitions to God. This is the beautiful reality of the Church, our communion with the saints in heaven. In imitating their examples, they serve as our models in our own earthly journeys. With God's mercy, we will also one day join the saints in heaven.



The Nativity Grotto, Bethlehem

Suggested Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Constantine built a Church in AD 330 over the cave where Jesus was born and it was dedicated in May 31, 339. Justinian replaced the original Church in the 6th century. The Basilica of the Nativity may be entered through the "Door of Humility", where the pilgrim bows down to worship and honour the Lord.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!*