



O come, let us adore Him,  
On a silent Night  
O come, let us adore Him,  
He is our Light  
O come, let us adore Him,  
CHRIST THE LORD

Christmas Message, 2016

I consider myself very fortunate to have lived a long life with the experience of Christmas as a very special day. From early on I learned Christmas was more than just a holiday. It was, and is, a holy day, with a holiness that transcends time. For most of us it is a holiness of heart that makes the spiritual meanings of Christmas come alive.

It has not always been so in our beloved land. The Puritans forbade the celebration of Christmas as a holiday. They saw doing so as being much too “Popish.” They feared that the many traditional customs found in history were dangerous to their faith. At the same time they did realize that people needed some kind of celebration after the harvest. So they invented a day that became Thanksgiving.

In the early days of our republic Catholics could not celebrate Christmas openly. This was especially true in New England. Mass had to be celebrated early in the morning before the workday began – it lasted ten hours! How fortunate we are today! Our present heritage deserves our effort to maintain our celebration as our legal right everywhere.

The powerful meaning of Christmas in all its spiritual origins could not forever be denied to a people that grew with the years of immigration. So today we have the benefit of the basic celebration, even if it has been less defined as a holy day. We will sing our Glorias and will act with great good will toward others. We may exchange gifts as a memory of God’s gift of His Son to humanity. But we must not forget all the meanings of this special day. God will be sending us His message through new angels of evangelization. Mary will be our reminder of real motherhood for our generation. Joseph will be the example of the good provider and courageous leader of the families among us.

Whatever you think of the world today, thank God that you have a bit of the Christmas spirit. It is a spirit of love and joy. If others would try to rob you of it, know they cannot do so as far as the spiritual celebration. Let us keep Christmas and do so with faith and love. Let us meet our Christ in the Mass at Christmas. Know that you and your loved ones will be remembered there as your priests pray the Lord to give you a truly holy, blessed and Merry Christmas.

*Monsignor David Morrison*