



Advent Reflection

Day #24

Tuesday, December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior....”

So starts the greatest love story the world has ever known.

I celebrated my childhood Christmases in a Croatian village; population 25. We decorated the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve, and my dad brought it into the house. Kneeling on the floor, mom and I waited for him to knock on the door so we could tell him to come in, to welcome in the good news, and all of us singing “Unto Us Is Born the King of Heaven!” As a reminder that the King of Heaven was born in a manger, hay was spread under the dining room table and it is where I have to sleep that night, as another reminder that “unto us, a child is born.”

Many years have passed since those beautiful childhood days and many things have changed. I now live in a metropolis. I decorate my home weeks before Christmas. There is no hay under my dining room table. Moreover, my childhood village now has a population of six. Many more years have passed since Mary exclaimed the words of the Magnificat, but her proclamations have not changed. From villages of six to cities of millions, we have seen them happen in every generation. During this Advent season, in a year that has seen much change, let us join Mary and rejoice in what has stayed the same for thousands of years. Let us rejoice in her newborn son who came into the world to lift up the lowly and remember his promise of mercy. The greatest love story the world has ever known ... continues.

Reflection by Holy Name Cathedral Parishioner Visnja Gardner