

A Short Homily for a Hospital Support CHRISTMAS Party
From The Nativity of CHRIST in LUKE 2:1-4 – A Message of Love

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I. A Prayer of Blessing

In the front lobby of our hospital at Mercy Medical Center is a Cross with this "Prayer of Blessing" from NUMBERS 6:24-26. Let us pray:

May The LORD bless us and keep us;
May The LORD make the light of His face
To shine upon us and be gracious to us.
May The LORD turn His gaze towards us
And give us His peace.¹
That we may rest in GOD's Love again today,
And be these same living Divine gifts to one another!
AMEN.

¹ See NAB, NUMBERS 6:24-26.

II. LUKE 2:1-14 – The Birth of The Messiah JESUS

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled [in a census]...

4 And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, Who was with Child.

6 While they were there, the time came for Her to have Her Child,

7 and She gave birth to Her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock.

9 The Angel of The Lord appeared to them and The Glory of The Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great... [awe].

10 The Angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people.

11 For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you Who is Messiah and Lord.

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find an Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

13 And suddenly there was a multitude of The Heavenly Host with The Angel, praising GOD and saying:

14 “Glory to GOD in the highest and on earth peace...!”²

² NAB, LUKE 2:1-14.

III. A CHRISTMAS Message of Love

A week from today on Christmas Day we will recall The First Coming of The Messiah, our Lord JESUS CHRIST, as The Holy Infant in the arms of Joseph and Mary. We also look forward and anticipate The Second Coming of The Messiah, our Lord JESUS CHRIST, as The Just King, when He will bring His Kingdom in Heaven in full to earth.

But in the mean time, His Kingdom on earth in part is already here. It is present in creation and in man's stewardship; in Divine Providence; in His Spirit; in Israel and in The Church; in His Word; in The Sacraments; in Divine Mercy; in Faith, Hope and Charity; in our Works of Mercy; in families; and where ever people gather to give and receive GOD's Love with one another.

Our Grief and Cancer Support Groups here at Mercy Medical Center are two such places where people gather to give and receive His Love with one another. Here The Angel of The Lord announces that GOD has made a place for us to be enrolled in His care. As Joseph and Mary found shelter with The Infant JESUS in The Manger, here we find shelter in the manger of our hospital that the Sisters of Providence have built for us.

Here The Glory of The Lord shines upon and through us in our fellowship as we hear and honor one another's stories and feelings, burdens and losses, blessings and joys. Here we join with The Hosts of Heaven and one another, finding we are not alone. And here we give glory to GOD, sharing His peace as brothers and sisters in His Love.

May we have a joyful and blessed CHRISTMAS! AMEN.

IV. A Closing Irish Prayer

May the road always rise up to meet us.

May the wind be always at our backs.

May the sun shine warm upon our faces.

May the rains fall soft upon our fields

And until we meet again,

May GOD hold us all in the palm of His hand! ³

AMEN.

³ “An Old Irish Blessing.” Irish Blessings and Prayers. Retrieved 12/17/2017.
<http://islandireland.com/Pages/folk/sets/bless.html>.