



St. Gabriel's Passionist Parish

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

"The mystery of Christmas therefore lays upon us all a debt and an obligation to the rest of the human race and to the whole created universe. We who have seen the light of Christ are obliged by the greatness of the grace that has been given us to make known the presence of the Savior to the ends of the earth. This we will do not only by preaching the glad tidings of his coming, but above all by revealing him in our lives. Christ is born to us in order that he may appear to the whole world through us."

-Thomas Merton

There is no mystery in war and conflict and exploitation. Fear fuels the furor.

But love casts out fear. Love is stronger than death.

When it comes to the Incarnation, mystery beckons us to enter into the heart of God. Mystery is the beating heart of Christmas.

If we give ourselves whole heartedly to the mystery of God's love, our lives cannot help but be interrupted. Certainly, Mary's life was interrupted. I don't know what plans she had in her head concerning her future, but I'm reasonably sure being the Mother of God was not one of them.

Love always disrupts. It has the power to disrupt wars and conflicts. It has the power to disrupt the exploitation of the earth itself and to restore creation to its original dignity. It has the power to heal us and to call us to communion if – we will just pardon the interruption!

This Christmas may the Crucified of today whatever their religion or situation or specific suffering, disrupt our lives in such a way that they experience Christ through our actions as we enter ever more deeply into the Mystery of Christmas.

*Merry Christmas
Fr Paul*

*Francis
Mulligan*

Alen Cunningham

*Marilyn Burke
Sr. Maria Lucia, RSM
Nikki Malunas*

Hélène Taylor