

There is always something special about starting a new project ... or the first day of a new job ... there's an excitement in meeting new people ... going to a new place ... traveling somewhere you've never been before ... discovering a new short-cut through back roads ... the smell of a new car ... driving on fresh pavement ... a new set of clothes ... a new pair of shoes.

There's a certain level of expectation in any new endeavor we might undertake ... or in receiving something new.

We can always reminisce, too, of the first time we met someone ... perhaps a loved one or a friend ... in a special relationship, there's sometimes the first kiss. The beginning of a relationship that may have come and gone ... or maybe still continues to this day ... or awaits us in eternity.

We often take great joy in re-living new-ness in the changing seasons of the year ... the first snowfall, the first day of spring ... the fresh smell after a thunderstorm.

Saint John begins his Gospel, which we have just heard, with these three words:

"In the beginning . . ."

He is echoing the words of the very first book of the Bible ... where it also says:

"In the beginning . . ."

In Genesis, we are told of the creation account - the heavens and the earth, light and darkness, sea and dry land.

In the Gospel we hear of the Word of God, through whom came all things ... through whom came life, and the light that shines in the darkness.

Genesis speaks of the creation of the universe.

The Gospel speaks of the re-creation of the universe.

Saint John tells us ... perhaps reminds us ... that:

*"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."*

In today's Opening Prayer we prayed,
*"that we may share in the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our humanity."*

And the Gospel also tells us that:
*"to those who believe in [Jesus'] name, ...
to those who did accept him ...
he gave power to become children of God."*

That is the miracle of Christmas - that we have been re-created in Christ Jesus - that all things have been made new in His dwelling among us.

We may not feel it ... we may have forgotten it ... we may have never realized it ... but it is true ...

Christ's birth - the coming of Jesus in the flesh - has transformed all creation ...

*"The Word became flesh ...
that we might share in the divinity of Christ ...
[and] become [the] children of God."*

And in so doing - it has transformed us ... if we accept Him ... if we believe in Him.

I realize that this is easy to say ... and hard to do ... but it is the truth ... Jesus is the ultimate Truth ... Jesus Christ, born for us today in the city of Bethlehem ... come in the flesh.

At the Midnight Mass we sing: *"Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord."*

Can we accept Him? Can we allow him to be our Savior? Can I allow Him to be my Savior? Are we able to invite Him in to save us where we need to be saved?

Will we make room for Him ... in our hearts ... in our day ... in our lives?

Let us pray that through the infinite graces of this Eucharist today, and through the graces of our Baptism ... that we will allow God to manifest in each and every one of us the great miracle of this day ... the miracle of Christmas ... that we might allow the saving power of Jesus Christ - begotten of the Father - to penetrate our very being and change us ... make us into a new creation ... full of grace and truth ... through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.