



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

DECEMBER 24, 2017

Someone mentioned to me earlier this week how time seems to be flying by more quickly than ever. I agreed, but told her that we probably feel that way because we are getting old! She laughed, then added that there might be something more to it than just old age. She explained to me that her children also tell her that they can't believe how fast their days and weeks go by. "When I was growing up," she continued, "the days always seemed to be so long and slow. No longer!"

She then gave me her theory: our lives are so full of activity that we don't have time to stop and enjoy the moment. Both children and adults go from one thing to the next every single day, before and after school and work, and we never take time to smell the flowers.

I think she is on to something. On the day that Jesus was born, things were so very simple. Mary, Joseph, and a baby were in a quiet stable. The King of Kings was born in silence, broken up only by the sounds of the animals giving glory to the newborn king, in the only way they knew how.

How different is that from the noise and complexity of our daily activity! With our busy schedules, do we even have time to stop by the stable and adore the Christ child?

Much of our busyness is part of God's will for us, no doubt. We were born in these times and in these parts, not in the first century A.D. Our reality is what it is. We need to take care of our children, parents, jobs, rent, health, and so much more.

But perhaps we can slow down our experience of time by living each moment in the presence of God. We can do that in so many different ways. For example, several times a day, stop what you are doing and say a "Hail Mary". Or on the way to or from work, stop by a church and make a visit to Christ in the Eucharist or light a candle as a prayer. Say a prayer of thanksgiving before every meal, even if you are with other people. Before beginning a project at work or home, ask the Lord for wisdom and strength to do it with perfection and love. Pray the rosary on your way to pick up the kids at school. These are all little ways to slow things down and live our lives with meaning.

One of my prayers for our parish on this Christmas Day is that in 2018 we don't allow ourselves to be carried away by the hustle and bustle of our surroundings and forget the most important things in our lives, to love God and to love others, especially those in most need of love and mercy.

Merry Christmas!
God Bless, Father Jonathan