



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistæ

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

1101 AMSTERDAM ROAD ✿ PARK HILLS ✿ KENTUCKY ✿ 41011

Christmas — The Day of Kings



ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT His Majesty, Jesus Christ the King of kings, and His Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, changed everything, even effecting the rising and falling of whole kingdoms. Thus the Prophets spoke of His coming *as the desire of all the nations*, and Isaias spoke of it as *a sign as high the heavens and deep as the nether world*. This sign initiated the indestructible Christian Empire, the beginning of the end to all malice. *A Child has been given to us, and the government is upon His shoulder*, says Isaias. As King of kings, He came to conquer and conquer He did!

Consider some important examples. The three kings came to adore and cast down their crowns before Him only twelve days later. On Christmas in 496, St. Remigius baptized the Frankish King Clovis along with 3000 of his nobles, thereby giving birth to the eldest daughter of the Church, the Catholic Kingdom of France. On the same holy day in 597, St. Augustine of Canterbury and his companions baptized King Ethelbert and 10,000 Anglo-Saxons. Charles the Great—Charlemagne—the first Holy Roman Emperor and a founding father of Europe, was crowned by Pope Leo II on this holy day. Charlemagne reigned as emperor for 13 years, with his legal and educational reforms sparking a cultural revival as well as unifying much of Europe for the first time since the fall of the Roman Empire. On Christmas in the year 1000, Pope Sylvester II crowned St. Stephen I King of Hungary. Much of Christ's Kingdom in Hungary has lasted even to this day, becoming one of Europe's greatest bulwarks against the Muslims and later the Communists. The crowning of William the Conqueror as the King of England took place on this

day in 1066. And so too with various other kings and historical events such as the crowning of Poland's kings and many others like Otto II crowned by Pope John XIII. All of these coronations are among the most important events in the history of Christian Europe. Add to the list various peace treaties signed on this day, as well as religious orders founded, and we begin to see its impact.

The *via negativa* ("the negative way"—which shows what something is by seeing how it is opposed), reveals the same things. For years, beginning in 1621, the Plymouth Colony leaders prohibited Christmas as a day of rest or celebration. English Parliament eliminated Christmas as a national holiday in 1645, amid widespread anti-Christmas sentiment. Settlers in New England went even further, outlawing Christmas celebrations entirely in 1659. The General Court of Boston levied a five-shilling fine in 1651 on anyone caught "observing any such day as Christmas." None of these laws lasted long, but it should not surprise us that we, a secular nation, are still battling over this very issue (e.g., allowing Nativity scenes to be displayed on public property). Meanwhile, secularism, paganism and other false religions are allowed to blossom. Other *via negativa* examples include the revolutionary French assembly suppressing religious orders on Christmas in 1830 and the USSR officially ending on same day in 1991.

Let us take confidence, then, dearly beloved in Christ, in the unassailable power of Christmas to overcome the kings and kingdoms of this world. All those of good will shall be gathered to His standard, offer prayers at His altar and be heard. Come and let us adore anew and pray as the Church does in Her litanies: *Through Thy Nativity, deliver us, O Lord.*



Training Future Missionaries

Our constitutions instruct us how to prepare good men to become true missionaries, zealous for the salvation of souls. "In



receiving a new subject the community already sees in him the fulfillment of all her hopes. He is in her eyes a brother, a friend, a co-worker, a humble and courageous priest, serving with Jesus Christ under the protection of Mary." Further, "Our students" will be properly trained to "hold strictly to the method, principles, and teaching of the Angelic Doctor." Yet, even as we devote

"ourselves to study, ... we place more value on piety than on science and eloquence." Thank you for assisting us to fulfill this demanding but rewarding work. We currently have four brothers in the seminary studying philosophy. It is our hope you will someday be greatly edified and assisted by these budding Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist. ❧

Patience Gains All Things

Once again, although we have everything in place for a proper public permit to build our Grotto, our board of zoning adjustment was appealed a second time by a neighbor. The case is being prepared to be examined and ruled upon by the Kentucky Court of Appeals. Please join us in prayer for a timely resolution to this difficulty in providing Our Lady of Lourdes a "hollow place" in the rock in Park Hills (cf. Canticle 2:14). In the meantime we are working to restore and beautify the stained glass windows in the church and add wood carved angels on the ceiling so that all who enter to pray will be always "under His wings." Thank you for your support and generosity. ❧



Our gift to our benefactors is this: daily prayer and the offering of Holy Mass for them all on Christmas Day through its Octave.



Novena for Christmas

December 16

O SHEPHERD that rulest Israel, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, come to guide and comfort us. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 17

O WISDOM that comest out of the Mouth of the Most High, that reachest from one end to another, and orderest all things mightily and sweetly, come to teach us the way of prudence! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 18

O ADONAI, and Ruler of the House of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai, come to redeem us with an outstretched arm! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory...*

December 19

O ROOT of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths, Whom the Gentiles shall seek, come to deliver us, do not tarry. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 20

O KEY of David, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth, come to liberate the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 21

O DAYSPRING, Brightness of the everlasting light, Sun of justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 22

O KING of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof! O Cornerstone, that makest of two one, come to save man, whom Thou hast made out of the dust of the earth! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 23

O EMMANUEL, our King and our Law-Giver, Longing of the Gentiles, yea, and salvation thereof, come to save us, O Lord our God! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 24

O THOU that sittest upon the cherubim, God of hosts, come, show Thy face, and we shall be saved. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

Please consider contributing to this work, making checks to:

The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist or just MSJB

May God reward you!

The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.info)

