

**“AN ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SPIRITUALITY ALL YEAR:
MY WILL WITH GOD’S”
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ADVENT MISSION
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH, MELBOURNE BEACH, FLORIDA
SUNDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY
DECEMBER 15, 16 & 17, 2019 AT 7:00 PM
Evening One**

Productivity vs. Fruitfulness: An Inner Battle of Christian Spirituality

The Angelus:

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary....And she conceived of the Holy Spirit
Hail Mary, full of grace.....
Behold the handmaid of the Lord....Be it done to me according to thy word.
Hail Mary, full of grace.....
And the Word was made flesh....And dwells among us.

Collect prayer: “Almighty and ever-living God, every good work begins with your inspiration, continues with your help, and is brought to fruition through your providence....”

- A. What word can best be used to describe the work of God from Genesis to Revelation?
- B. How God Works

I. Miracle: Faith or Fiction - C.S. Lewis - Faith: “Seeing Because of Believing” (Miracle questioned = Faith)

- A. Definition of Miracle: “An Interference with Nature by Supernatural Power”
- B. Naturalists and Super Naturalists
- C. Supernature: Something divine, something eternal and amazing seeks to enter into nature and reveal Himself to her (nature)
 - 1. “We begin to see how nature is pockmarked all over by little holes at each of which is something different from nature’s self.”
 - 2. Science reveals pockmarks of Supernature entering into nature

II. The Path to True Happiness

- A. Four levels of happiness in ascending order (Aristotle/Monsignor Robert Spitzer)
- B. Laetus: Happiness in a thing (cheeseburgers or linguini)
- C. Felix: Happiness from comparative advantage (I am better than . . .)
- D. Beatitudo: Happiness which comes from seeing the good in others and doing the good for others
- E. Sublime Beatitudo: Happiness resulting from the true reach for fullness of Perfection, Goodness, Beauty, Truth, and Love (God)
- F. Aristotle’s four levels of happiness – the first three oriented toward productivity and only the fourth being fruitful
- G. Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3

III. Productivity versus Fruitfulness

- A. What’s the difference?
- B. The source: where does each one begin
- C. Progress: how does the work continue, by whose willing it?
- D. To what end: kingdom significance versus earthly purpose

IV. Productivity

- A. Definition of a product: The intentional result of bringing together resources and a process to produce a specific desired outcome which may be repeated as many times as desired.
- B. Words that speak of a product-oriented perspective as opposed to a fruits-oriented one: raw material, budget, technology, distribution...
- C. Productivity sounds like a positive word
- D. Words that speak of fruitfulness-oriented: rebirth, conversion, mercy, joy, charity....

V. Fruitfulness

- A. Scripture: “Whoever lives in me and I in him will bear much fruit.” (John 15:5)
- B. Definition of Fruitfulness: the deep potential and capacity for human beings to bring forth new life in ways that are much more than physical; personal value and worth – their joy brings forth joy (John 15:5)
- C. What can thwart our deep potential to bring forth life – fear, our personal wounds, doubts, suffering, past, worthlessness....

VI. Questions:

- A. What is the origin of a product? (human ingenuity)
- B. How do products multiply? (our own willing it regardless of the nature of the product)
- C. Who is the reproducer? (the individual)
- D. Why does reproducing products continue? (profit, personal satisfaction, power)
- E. What is the goal of high production? (security, comfort, success)

VII. Application to my own identity, marriage, family, and work (ontological versus functional)

Immanuel (Michael Card)

A sign shall be given
A virgin will conceive
A human baby bearing
Undiminished deity
The glory of the nations
A light for all to see
That hope for all who will embrace
His warm reality
Immanuel
Our God is with us
And if God is with us
Who could stand against us
Our God is with us
Immanuel

For all those who live in the shadow of death
A glorious light has dawned
For all those who stumble in the darkness
Behold your light has come

Immanuel
Our God is with us
And if God is with us
Who could stand against us
Our God is with us
Immanuel

So what will be your answer?
Will you hear the call?
Of Him who did not spare His son
But gave him for us all
On earth there is no power
There is no depth or height
That could ever separate us
From the love of God in Christ

Never Heard the Music (Rich Mullins)

I used to wake up angry
Knowing the sun would shine
But the light would get lost in the clouds
I used to be so lonely
Wishing that love was mine
But never knowing where that it was found

And then there was You, Lord
Though You had always been
I'd never opened up to You
And then I was through, Lord
Through with the empty games
Now I know I want to live my life out loving You

*I never heard the music 'til the day I met You Lord
I never heard the music 'til the day I met You Lord
Now I bless You for the songs that each day brings
And for how they taught me how to sing anew

I used to feel so empty
I'd listen to the radio
But never hear a thing within my heart
The days went on unending
With nowhere new to go
Just hang around and play out the same, old part

But dreams don't come true Lord
Though I wish them on the stars
I'd never given up to You
And what can I do, Lord?
I'd wait for the songs to start
And now I know the music that comes from loving You*

My Deliverer (Rich Mullins)

Joseph took his wife and her child and they went to Africa
To escape the rage of a deadly king
There along the banks of the Nile, Jesus listened to the song
That the captive children used to sing
They were singing

My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by
My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by

Through a dry and thirsty land, water from the Kenyon heights
Pours itself out of Lake Sangra's broken heart
There in the Sahara winds Jesus heard the whole world cry

For the healing that would flow from His own scars
The world was singing

My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by
My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by
He will never break His promise - He has written it upon the sky

My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by

My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by
My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by
I will never doubt His promise though I doubt my heart, I doubt my eyes
My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by

My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by
My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by
He will never break His promise though the stars should break faith with the sky
My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by

My Deliverer is coming - my Deliverer is standing by (6x)

We Are the Reason (Avalon)

As little children we would dream of Christmas morn
Of all the gifts and toys we knew we'd find
But we never realized a baby born one blessed night
Gave us the greatest gift of our lives

*We were the reason that He gave His life
We were the reason that He suffered and died
To a world that was lost He gave all He could give
To show us the reason to live

As the years went by we learned more about gifts
The giving of ourselves and what that means
On a dark and cloudy day a man hung crying in the rain
All because of love
All because of love*

I finally found the reason for living
It's in giving every part of my heart to Him (every part to Him)
And all that I do every word that I say (you know I'll be saying)

I'll be giving my all just for Him, for Him (everything for Him)

He is the reason to live
(don't you know do you know the reason
that he came, oh he came to save us
when he gave his life for us) he suffered and died
To a world that was lost He gave everything (everything that
He had He gave)
To show us the reason to live

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud, and majesty and awe

Rejoice!

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

Rejoice!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Rejoice!