



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN. UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

My dearly beloved in Christ,

When everything was ready, *“in the fulness of time”* (Galatians 4:4), God brought to a decisive turning point the plan He had for humanity’s happiness.

“God chose us in Him before the world began, to be holy and blameless in His sight, to be full of love;.” (Ephesians 1:4)

God had created humans in His image. To be in God’s image is to be given a share in God’s creative love. It means to be authentically human, to fulfill God’s intention in creating us, we must love—selflessly, creatively. Not to love is to become subhuman. As Paul put it in his famous hymn to love: If I *“have not love, I am nothing.”*

Sadly, men and women over the years chose self-love over creative love. This choice destroyed them. To regain their human dignity they would need to be shown the way. To this end, God *“sent forth His Son,”* Who was perfectly in God’s image.

People could see in Jesus what it was like to be gloriously human. Jesus shared their weaknesses, their ordinariness, their uncertainty and fear and pain. Jesus rose above these obstacles by denying Himself and by loving creatively and selflessly.

And He did this as one of us. That is the whole point of the Incarnation—of Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of humanity. Christmas is a ringing proclamation that human life is precious, destined for glory. Christmas says once more that the secret of human fulfillment and happiness is love, human love—the love of men and women created to share the creative love of their Creator.

Let us celebrate this Christmas by fully living the Gift that Jesus has given to us by loving Him and embracing one another in the fulness of His love.

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Yours in the love of our Lord Jesus,

Fr. Don

Fr. Don Anthony Freude