

4th Sunday of Advent

(Isaiah 7.10-14, Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.18-24)

Theme: Let Us Share With Others

Beloved in Christ Jesus: The readings of this 4th week of Advent, reveals to us, that the name of the child we are waiting and preparing for, is to be called "Emmanuel". This name revealed by the angel of God means, "God is with us". This shows that God our Messiah has come to share His life and love with us, "Look, the young women is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." (Is. 7:14)

This Christmas period is one of the seasons we Christians are called in a special way to share this love with others. This is a time of sharing—a time of giving—a time of visiting and sharing the love of God with others. It is a time for us to remember that, there are other people out there who need our care and love. We need to realize that there are people in this community who are hungry, homeless and lonely. For almost three weeks we have been talking about our families, but this time around we need to reach out to others.

This sharing is not only material things, they are important, but also we need to share our time, our joy, our peace, our laughter with others. Even little children share this a lot with others; you see them running around smiling and laughing, sharing their joy and happiness with others. We need to do the same, we need to visit others and share our joy and happiness with them. Let us make time and visit our lonely parents and grandparents, the seniors living alone, those in the hospitals and those in care homes.

Beloved in Christ Jesus, let us not start fearing that helping others with some gifts or money will affect our family budget. We need to give out, for something new from God to come in. Charity or alms giving must affect our purse for God's blessings to flow into our lives. Our God, *Emmanuel*, has come to share his life and love with us. Let us help to spread this love and sharing to the whole world. St. Paul said in the second reading today, "Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of His name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ." (Rm.1:1-7)

This is our calling as Christians by the virtue of our baptism, to bear witness to our faith in Christ Jesus.