

Home. For Good.

'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling with us' (JN 1:14).

In youthful efforts to find 'home', a place of belonging where my part of the social equation fit and totaled something valuable, I failed. As 'gay' relationships faded, reliance on pills and powders grew. I wondered why I could not deliver on the good I possessed. That depressed me—I wasn't being true to myself and others.

I had a pretty good home life but that did not make me a good child. I never swallowed the sixties' rot that we were all God's children, natively inclined to peace and harmony. I wanted to love but could not, not really. Good intentions capsized under the weight of selfishness. It made more sense to me that I was a child under the devil's sway, estranged from the Good.

I knew Jesus was real but did not know how He could make me real; how could I align myself with His greater good and so become good? That's why I love the Catholic Church's reading this Christmas Day from John 1:1-18. God came into the mess we made of His world 'and made His dwelling with us'; He draws near to us vagrant ones who become violent in our alienation when we do not recognize Him as our Father.

Maybe God knew that the 'father' bit was too much for our foolish hearts, how we project our fears of masculine power on Him. So God came as a child in order to free us to become children again, kids who know some good and long to become good. As we by grace see Him as He is—Almighty in a manger, Lord of all living yet lowly, we can get low and worship the child king. This Christmas, hold nothing back—let us offer Him the whole of our divided lives! Therein lays His power to make us His own, to make us good.

Get real. Become good. Forsake the lie that your good intentions suffice. Only God in Christ can give you a home—the Father's embrace which transforms children of darkness into children of Light.

'He came to His own but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God—children not born of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God' (JN 1: 11-13).