

Homily  
Friday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent  
December 16, 2022

“...the Father has sent me.”

We are quickly approaching the end of preparation. We will soon celebrate the incarnation of the Word of God. Today we hear Jesus telling us that it was the Father who sent Him. Why?

It seems that with all the chaos and apparent futility in the world that it would have been easier to do all this differently. Yet, we rely on God’s wisdom, His understanding beyond our understanding. Still, I’m curious and want to know, “Why did the Father send Jesus?”

There’s a troubleshooting technique used in industry to help us understand the cause-and-effect relationship between what we know and its root cause. It’s an iterative interrogative process that uses a simple question, “Why?” When used, it often finds the source at the fifth question.

Why did the Father send Jesus?

To accomplish the tasks assigned by the Father to His Son.

Why did the Father assign these tasks?

To give testimony.

Why did the Father want Jesus to give testimony.

To let us know He wants to save us

Why does the Father want to save us?

Because He created us and wants us to be with Him.

Why did He create us and want us to be with Him?

Because He loves us.

Why does He love us?

Because His is love.

And now we have the root cause of all this confusion and madness. God is love. Everything finds its root cause in the love that is God. It’s a mystery that we know well, even if we don’t fully understand it. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” John 3:16

And that’s why we have all the fuss and muss. God is love and we are a reflection, although imperfect, of that love. This is what we are preparing for. The incarnation makes God present to us in a very real, physical way, in the embodiment of His only begotten Son, our Lord and our Brother, like us in all ways but sin, Jesus Christ.

As we enter into the final week of Advent, we are called to remember why God sent His Son and prepare a place for Him in our hearts. And we do this by shedding those things we hold in our hearts that don't belong there. We shed the selfishness, arrogance, pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth that have no place in our hearts and make room for Love. We make room for the one and only thing that we need. We make room for God.