ST. JOSEPH ADVENT RETREAT

LAUDATO SI’

“BIRTHING THE HOLY”

IN THE CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME AND OUR DOMESTIC CHURCH

SESSION 3 – PILGRIMS WALKING IN MYSTERY

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OVERVIEW OF ADVENT RETREAT

Friday Evening
- Praising the Lord – an contextual overview of *Laudato Si’*
- An Integral Ecology - Theological and Spiritual Perspectives
  - Rights of indigenous peoples, of immigrants, and of the land

Saturday Morning
- Pilgrims Walking in Mystery
  - we are called to be “stewards of the mysteries”
  - our home is the Heavenly Jerusalem
- *Christ Our Light! Thanks Be To God!*
  - connecting Catholic culture and worship
The **piety** of the Christian people, and hence their **actions and life**, are not grounded sufficiently in the fundamental truths that constitute the soul of the Liturgy; ...

Let us teach the faithful to pray and confess these truths **in a body**:

and the Liturgy thus practiced will insensibly arouse a slumbering faith

and give new efficacy, both in prayer **and action**, to the **latent energies** of the baptized souls...

Dom Lambert Beauduin, 1906
A *liturgical* piety connects Sunday worship to the daily lives of the Mystical Body of Christ.

“...we need to appreciate that participation in the liturgy is of the whole human being ... and ongoing assimilation into the mystery of God.”

Msgr. Kevin Irwin
St. Paul says, “Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries.”

1 Cor. 4:1

“The Christian thing, in its full and primitive meaning of God’s good Word is not, as it were a philosophy of life with religious background music, nor a moral or theological training;

it is a mysterium as Saint Paul means the word, a revelation by God to man through acts full of life and power;

it is mankind’s way to God….

What is necessary is a living, active sharing in the redeeming deed of Christ. For this purpose the Lord has given us the mysteries of worship …”

Dom Odo Casel, OSB
Mystery of Christian Worship (1932)
“In him and through his blood, we have been redeemed, and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God’s favor to us.

God has given us the wisdom to understand fully the mystery, the plan he was pleased to decree in Christ.

A plan to be carried out in Christ, in the fullness of time, to bring all things into one in him, in the heavens and on the earth.

Eph. 1: 9-10
In reality it is only in the **mystery of the Word made flesh** that the mystery of man truly becomes clear.

For Adam, the first man, was a type of him who was to come, Christ the Lord.

Christ the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, fully reveals man to himself and brings to light his most high calling.

*Gaudium et Spes, 22*
For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Heb. 9:24.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels in festal gathering,…

Heb. 12: 22.

In the earthly liturgy we take part in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy celebrated in the holy city of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims.

SC, n. 8.
“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over...”

John 18: 36.

“I am not asking that you take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.”

John 17: 5.
But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,…

Phil. 3: 20.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Pt. 2: 9.
So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Eph. 2: 19-22.
OUR TRUE HOME – THE MYSTICAL BODY

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one, so it is with Christ ...

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Cor. 12.
Today, the analysis of environmental problems cannot be separated from the analysis of human, family, work-related and urban contexts, nor from how individuals relate to themselves, which leads in turn to how they relate to others and to the environment.

LS, n. 141.
Our Common Home is Culturally Diverse

...there is a need to incorporate the history, culture and architecture of each place, thus preserving its original identity.

Ecology, then, also involves protecting the cultural treasures of humanity in the broadest sense. The disappearance of a culture can be just as serious, or even more serious, than the disappearance of a species of plant or animal.

The imposition of a dominant lifestyle linked to a single form of production can be just as harmful as the altering of ecosystems.

LS, nn. 143, 145.
...it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed....

When they remain on their land, they themselves care for it best. Nevertheless, in various parts of the world, pressure is being put on them to abandon their homelands to make room for agricultural or mining projects which are undertaken without regard for the degradation of nature and culture.

LS, n. 146.