

## Spiritual Reflection - December 2013

### *With Mother Frances we prepare for Christmas*

In this time of Advent, let Mother Frances' words guide our preparation: "*Let us prepare well for the coming of Jesus Christ, so that He will find a worthy dwelling in our hearts and share His eternal love with us.*" (Letters to her parents and to her sister Hedwig, 28). She also wrote to F. Jordan: "*May every day of the new year unite us more with the God of our soul. Let us prepare a dwelling for Him, the Lord of our whole beings, so that He can dwell in the center of our hearts.*". (Letters to Father John Francis Jordan, 81).

How to prepare a dwelling for God within us? Mother Frances was deeply attracted with the mystery of the Incarnation, by Christ's humanity; in particular, she saw God's humility and poverty shine in the "*silence of the crib*". This same love resonates in St. Francis' words: "*Behold daily He humbles Himself as when from His 'royal throne' He came into the womb of the Virgin*" (Adm.1).

The awareness that "*Humility is clarity, truth is light, and in this light one walks on the way of union with God*" (Various Writings and Documents of the Beginning of the Congregation, Spiritual Notes, 12) arises only from a heart that has contemplated the humility of Jesus. But for Jesus humility was a choice because He "*did not regard equality with God ... rather he emptied himself*" (Phil. 2:6,7), for us, humility is the truth of our condition, which means we surrender ourselves to God, in order to live as creatures that are caught by the Creator's Love. M. Frances understood this so much to say: "*Humility puts us in perfect relationship to God,*" (Various Writings, Phrases, 3) and "*Ask for nothing but humility and the rest will be given to you when you need it.*" (Letters to Father John Francis Jordan, 39).

Our hope is the same as that of Mother Frances which she addressed to F. Jordan, the hope that we would have the colors of humility and poverty shine inside us, her Church, for a "*..... complete transformation into Christ, the poor, the little Christ.*" (Letters to Father John Francis Jordan, 75).

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