

## HOMILY – CHRISTMAS 2015

A cat dies and goes to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, “You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask.”

The cat says, “Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.”

God says, “Say no more.” And instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, 6 mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, “All our lives we’ve had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn’t have to run anymore.”

God says, “Say no more.” And instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, “How are you doing? Are you happy here?”

The cat yawns and stretches and says, “Oh, I’ve never been happier like this before in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you’ve been sending over are the best!”

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**Louis Cassels**, in his *Parable of the Birds* tells of a man who refuses to go with his family to the midnight Mass because he cannot understand the Incarnation. Left alone at home, he finds a flock of birds in his backyard. Caught in the storm, the little creatures are desperately looking for a shelter. He tries to usher the bird into the barn by sprinkling breadcrumbs along the way. When this fails, he tries them in by walking around them, waving his arms in the air. But the birds still do not understand. Finally, he realizes their problem: the birds find him a strange and terrifying creature. They do not trust him. He said to himself: Only another bird can help them. If only I could be a bird for a moment, perhaps I could save them.” At that moment, he hears the church bells ring the good news of Christmas. He sinks to his knees, saying: “**Now I see why God has to become one of us.**” Not only this, love is the reason why God was incarnated. He loves so much this family of people.

Christmas is no other than God wanting to be with us. He became one like us as a lowly child born in a manger. So that in this way, just like the birds in our story, we will not be afraid of the grandeur of His power and greatness but will understand his true love for us. We too, love him neither out of fear, nor wonder, but with a real love in our hearts. As Jesus Christ is telling us in the gospel of St. John that God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son that whoever believes in Him might not perish but might have everlasting life,” (John 3:16). This love of God in us is not only manifested during Christmas time but throughout the year.

Christmas means sharing and expressing love for one another, doing and saying things one does not get around to doing the rest of the year.

During this Christmas season take time to express your love especially for your family members. Share with them the peace and joy that you received by the birth of Jesus. Let your Christmas and others become meaningful.