



The Incarnation

*In the beginning was the Word;
the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.
He was present to God in the beginning.
Through him all things came into being,
and apart from him nothing came to be.
—John 1:104*

John begins his gospel with these words, reminding us that the Incarnation is not a one time event, but an on-going creative act. That all creation is an expression of the divine. I was reminded of this mystery by two e-mails that came to me during the holidays. The first was a beautiful meditation on the birth of Jesus using film clips from the movie, *The Nativity*, accompanied by the song, "O Holy Night." The other e-mail contained a link to a presentation by UNICEF which describes the impact of the war in Congo on children. Both of these speak to me of the Incarnation. We often forget in our portrayals of Jesus' birth, that he was born into poverty, was homeless, and was a refugee as he and his parents fled to Egypt to save him from being killed. This is the plight of so many children today — the body of Christ incarnated today.

This reminds me, then, of the questions raised during the 1st Week of the Exercises:

What have I done for Christ?

What am I doing for Christ?

What will I do for Christ?

Not in a guilt-trippy or accusing way, but simply an awareness. The plight of the children in the Congo raises my awareness of children in our own city who are suffering in poverty, who are homeless, who are refugees. And the economic crisis we are all in will add to those numbers.

So what is the call? Something to ponder as I enter 2009.

Note: Click images or text boxes to go to the presentations.