



not because of the Angel, she was used to the company of Angels, but because of his words.

She asked: „How will this be, because I do not know a man?“ The Angel Gabriel said to her: „The HOLY SPIRIT will overshadow You ...“ Then Mary replied: „Behold, I am the handmaid of the LORD, may it be done to me according to Your word.“

The Word, the GOD-Man, became Flesh in Bethlehem and has lived amongst us until His last breath. Through His unheard-of legacy to us humans, He remains amongst us in a hidden way on the Altar and in our hearts – if we are able to appreciate it.

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us ask St. Joseph to carry the Christmas peace into the families – peace, which clears all the misunderstandings, brings about reconciliation and forgiveness. Only in this way will things become bright and peaceful, and will Your family be a cosy dwelling place for the Redeemer.



With Christmas greetings and the blessing of Saint Joseph I remain with you all. Merry and blessed Christmas!

*Sister Paula*



December 2020

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Mary and Joseph

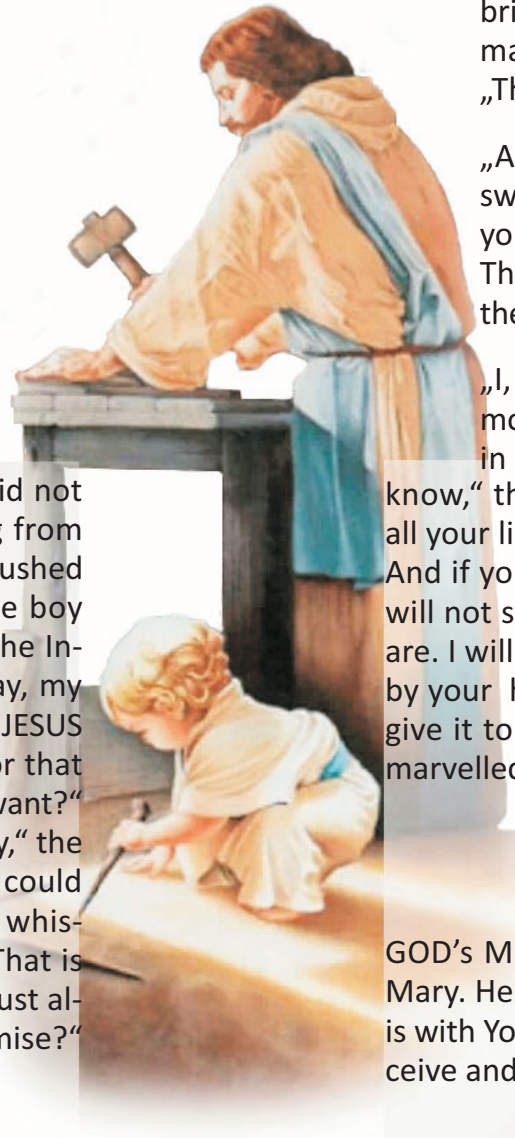
Mary, You are the open gate,  
Joseph, You are the stair in front of it!  
And through the gate and over the threshold  
emerges in inexpressible brightness:  
the light, the radiance of a world,  
the grace of all the poor,  
the food of all the starving,  
the mercy of the sinners,  
the call for all the seekers,  
the rest of all the tired,  
for all who are out in the cold:  
warmth and peace.  
You overabundant, great gate,  
You blessed stair in front of it,  
oh, stoop low, oh, open wide  
to our misery.

(Unknown author)

### Three Gifts – What JESUS Wants from Us

In the time of Advent a boy visited his grandfather. The child watched him carving a mighty nativity figure. Several figures already stood completed on the table. When the boy, a bit tired, laid his hand on the edge of the table, he noticed how all the figures came to life. He was quite surprised that he could talk with them! And what's more: shepherds, kings, Mary and Joseph were no longer small, and he no longer tall, but he walked about amongst them without attracting attention. And so he went along with them into the stable of Bethlehem. There he looked at the Child – and the Child at him.

Suddenly he had a scare and tears filled his eyes. „Why do you weep?“ the Infant JESUS asked. „Because I did not bring a present.“ – „I would love to have something from you,“ replied the Child in the manger. The little one flushed with joy. „I want to give You everything I have,“ the boy called out! „Three things I want to have from you,“ the Infant JESUS said. „Oh yes, my cloak, my model railway, my beautiful book with many pictures!“ – „No,“ the Infant JESUS answered, „I do not need all those things. It is not for that reason that I came to the earth!“ – „So, what is it you want?“ the boy asked in amazement. „Give Me your last essay,“ the Infant JESUS said in a low voice so that no one else could hear it. „JESUS,“ the boy stammered very shyly and whispered: „you know the teacher wrote ‘fail’ on it.“ – „That is exactly why I want to have it.“ – „But why?“ – „You must always bring Me what is marked with ‘fail.’ Do you promise?“ – „Yes, I'd love to!“ the boy replied.



„But I want yet a second present from you; your milk mug,“ the Infant JESUS continued. „But I broke it today, you know,“ the boy replied. „You should always bring Me what you have broken in your life. I want to make it whole again. Will you give Me that, too?“ – „That is hard! Will You help me?“ asked the boy.

„And now My third wish: you will bring Me the answer you have given to your mother, when she asked you to tell her how the milk mug had gone to pieces.“ Then the little boy laid his forehead on the edge of the manger and wept sorely because he felt ashamed.

„I, I, oh ...,“ he sobbed with much effort. „I said to my mother that I knocked down the mug by mistake, but in truth I threw it on the floor in anger.“ – „Yes, I know,“ the Infant JESUS said tenderly. „You shall bring Me all your lies and your waywardness, the evil you have done. And if you come to Me like that, I am willing to help you. I will not scold you, but accept you in your weakness as you are. I will always forgive you again and again. I will take you by your hand and show you the way. Will you allow Me to give it to you as a present?“ The boy looked, listened and marvelled ...

From “Adventskalender 2017  
Sternsinger Weihnachtswünsche”

GOD's Messenger – the Angel Gabriel – visited the Virgin Mary. He spoke: „Hail Mary, You are full of grace, the LORD is with You, You are blessed amongst women ... You will conceive and give birth to a SON ...“ Mary was greatly troubled,