Monsignor James Patrick Shea Curatio Retreat 2019 #3

Saturday, November 16 Morning Conference

Continued transcript quote/reflection

when this is forgotten, that the patient is a representation of the Incarnate Jesus hidden in distressing disguise.

What happens throughout creation, what happens all around us all the time, takes place even more impressively in the humanity which we were just considering. Christ, the once-for-all God made Man, plays in 10,000 places to the Father in men’s faces. God does not only call us to know Him, He unites Himself to us in our inmost being, so that, as St. Paul puts it, it is “no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” This is from Galatians. Or as the poem you hold in your hands puts it,

“Of her flesh he took flesh:

He does take fresh and fresh,... And makes, O marvellous!

New Nazareths in us…Bethlem or Nazareth,

Men here may draw like breath More Christ and baffle death;”

This is one of my favorite lines of the poem, this idea that we can draw in, as though air, more Christ and baffle death, which of course is the great ancient enemy of t he Fall and

of all mankind ... baffling death by drawing in Christ, through new Nazareths and Bethlehem. There you have it. Being a Christian and being saved is not about being a good person or living a moral life; it’s about being one with Jesus to confound and baffle death in every form it takes. That’s what the Christian life is. People of faith don’t talk very much about what we’re discussing, how God to our great surprise has chosen to make natural and visible things the outward clothing of His own invisible, consoling and saving presence, but it’s really important – it’s really, really important. You can call it different things. You can call it the sacramental way, the way of the Incarnation; it’s among the most important truths of the faith. It’s also one of the most neglected truths of the faith, and it affects the way we Catholics look at everything around us, even ourselves…”