

# Gifts

By Fr. Bob McDonald, SM

Giving and Receiving Gifts is one of the five languages of Love. We try to tell each other "I love you" by the gift we give. Christmas is an occasion for speaking our love. Birthdays and Anniversaries are special times, too.

As I write this, Thanksgiving is near. I am feeling great joy, thanking God for His greatest Gift, His Son, Jesus. God, who is Love, has entered into our life, taking flesh, and being born of the Virgin Mary. Taking upon Himself our sins, our suffering, our death, He gives Himself to us totally.

His Gift changes everything. He calls us to become One with Him. He invites us to take Him into ourselves, by reading His Love Letters in the Bible, letting His Word fill our minds and hearts. He invites us to Holy Communion, taking into our own body, His body and blood, the Gift of Eucharist. By becoming one with Him, we become His Body, the Church.

Every couple is invited to be a "Little Church." The couple who loves the way Jesus loves is a Little Church. Jesus lives in them and they live in Him. Their Unity becomes a Gift to the whole world. They become a Sacrament, a living presence of God, pouring out graces for renewing the whole Church.

I rejoice and thank God for the Gift of Worldwide Marriage Encounter. I have been given the Gift of vision to see you in this new light. You light up my life by living passionately, letting your love shine, like the star that led the Wise men to Bethlehem. I see God carrying out His Mission of renewing the Church when I see your joy.

I keep praying with Jesus, joining Him on His mission of giving myself for you, looking forward to his promise: "See, I make all things new."

You are His Gift to me.

I love you.

Fr. Bob McDonald, SM