

Christmas Day homily --- 2019

Fr. John Hagemann OSB

And the word became flesh and now lives among us ---- the word became flesh –

---- this past year in the month of June – my youngest niece gave birth to her first baby --- a baby boy --- he is named Owen Eugene Pippit

--- I was working in the garden the day the news came to me of this new baby boy – the news was accompanied by numerous photos --- but the one that will always stick with me was the one with the new daddy --- he was pictured with a nurse -- the baby lying on a table – daddy with surgical scissors in hand – ready to cut the umbilical cord of his son --- which soon he did ---

---- this was a very striking photo for me --- I say striking for 2 reasons –

- 1) Daddy --- this first time daddy – I had not thought much of him as such until I saw this photo – I had been used to him --- well --- as a farmer – loves to talk cover crops --- and farming methods – feeding cattle --- tractors --- especially green ones -- but also loving to have a Busch Light with me and loving to play wild pitch games – but now this photo --- his baby boy – I wondered if he realized how much this baby would change his life --- that he would look at everything differently now --- that all his life would be colored by this baby before him –
- 2) --- the photo was also striking for another reason – plain rawness --- let me explain --- having been raised on a farm, I have seen many, many births--of animals --- some of them were difficult ones --- I had seen many after births --- many umbilical cords --- but never any human

---- so truthfully there was a bit of rawness in this photo for me --- it truly was fleshy – granted --- there is incredible beauty in this photo --- but again it was really fleshy – almost too fleshy!!!

My friends --- the word became flesh --- JESUS --- EMMANUEL --- GOD WITH US --- was flesh --- he was in a placenta --- he had an umbilical cord --- there

was after birth --- real flesh – We often do NOT want to think of God in that way --- or we just do not think of God in that way –

BUT --- it is the way God chose to come to us --- in human flesh – so how does this baby changes us --- what does it mean –

It means --- we are forever connected to God because he became us --- in the flesh --- But even more importantly – it is an ongoing thing --- the Incarnation did not just happen 2000 years ago --- it continues and continues – in every single baby that is born --- we are forever connected to God because of God’s choice of the manner in which he came to us --- This is how it is --- whether want to believe it not --- it is how it is ---



GOD CHOSE ALL THE RAWNESS OF FLESH TO BE US – TO SAVE US --- TO SET US FREE –

What a gift--- indeed---

---- so change us --- change us –

If we totally live this --- it should make us generous --- we want to give back to God and to others – and the only gift --- the only gift that is appropriate is our very selves –

God became flesh --- gives himself to us as us --- (repeat again)

Let us gift God back and others with our

very selves as well—

God became flesh --- don't ever forget it!!