

November 24, 2015

Dear friends,

Earlier this week, I spoke with my daughter in Maryland. She called to tell me about my granddaughter Olive. Last Christmas I sent all my grandchildren nativity sets that I had put together. I put them in a wooden box, with figurines I had found, with a background scene pasted to the inside of the box, and a copy of the nativity story. Kim was telling me the nativity set was a regular part of playtime now. The figures of Mary, Joseph and Jesus being held and shared with parents, sitting in the box (an unintended consequence), and the story being read upon request on a regular basis.

Kim had called to tell me the story of the nativity set and thank me for the gift. But it was a time for me to give thanks as well. The nativity set was more than a box with figurines and a story - it was sharing my faith. And I give great thanks that the gift was being celebrated. And I expect it will be celebrated in the homes of Torin and Rebecca as well. This was just the first story I heard.

I think thanksgiving is part of communicating, and is done within the relationships we have. I pray that each of you may know the joy of communicating with another thanks for the life and gifts shared among family and friends. And the special joy that comes with giving thanks to God for sharing his life and love with us. May you have a very special and blessed Thanksgiving!

Fr David