

Third Friday of Advent

December 21st, 2007

“An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” (Matthew 1:1)

Most of us probably cannot go back farther than three or four generations unless we have done some extensive research of our family tree. Yet in Matthew, we read the impressive genealogy of Jesus that includes fourteen generations. It encompasses all the great people who were faithful followers of the one God beginning with the father of all believers, Abraham.

For those of us who want to know where we are going, it is good to know from where we came. The genealogy of Jesus that we find in scripture is an attempt by Matthew to help us see the big picture, to see the connection that exists between the great spiritual leaders of ancient times and Christ.

Today we have an opportunity to see an even bigger picture, a picture that reveals to us that everyone who lives came from not only the same human origin but that we can all claim the first life forms on this planet as our ancestors. If we go back even farther, we find that originally we were all created from stardust. Scientific research points out that everything that exists on this planet today existed at the beginning of time. The molecules of oxygen that we breathe today are the same molecules of oxygen that Jesus drew into His lungs.

The same God created the world of matter and the world of faith. We glimpse the profound magnitude of His power in both the flesh and spirit of creation. Since everything comes from a common origin then it would seem that science is simply leading us to realize that God is that origin of everything.

Just as the molecules of our bodies are made from the recycled molecules of Abraham, David, Ruth and Mary, so too, the molecules of our faith are bound inextricably with Moses, Joseph, Miriam and Jacob. During this Advent, perhaps we might contemplate the sacred Spirit of God who dwells in every ancient molecule of our present day life. Perhaps the concept of ‘ever ancient, ever new’ finds new depth of meaning in a genealogy of creation.

Reflection Questions

- 1.) Would my ancestors be proud of my faith life?*
- 2.) In what ways am I contributing to the communion of saints?*

Prayer: God of all creation, open our hearts to all the wonders of this universe. May we come to appreciate the vast horizons of our future by seeing the beauty of our past.