

As I anticipated carrying this child, our Christ child, around the Church, I couldn't help but wonder what must it have been like for Mary to carry God in her womb? It speaks to me of how close God wants to come to us? The birth of this Child is much more than just the Christmas story. It occurred to me that Mary's womb was just God's first stop on the earth. Where else does God want to go? We have to look deep within Mary to find an answer.

Better yet, maybe we ought to look deeply within ourselves. What God did with Mary, he offers to us! He invites us, as He invited Mary, "If you let me, I'll move in!"

The Scriptures say it repeatedly. In John 14, He says, "I am in you and you are in me." In Ephesians, Paul prays, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And in Revelation, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me."

Christ grew in Mary until He had to come out. Christ will grow in you until the same occurs. He will come out in your speech; in your actions; in your decisions. Every place you live will be a Bethlehem, and every day you live will be a Christmas. You, like Mary, will deliver Christ into the world.

You and I are called to be today's Mary. Even more so! He was a fetus in her, but He is a force in you. He will do what you cannot.

Think of just some of the things you can't do. Can't stop worrying about your children or grandchildren? Christ can! And He lives in you!

Can't stop arguing with your spouse? Christ can! And He lives in you!

Can't stop fighting with your sisters and brothers? Christ can! And He lives in you!

Can't let go of anger; forgive a hurt; or forsake a bad habit? Christ can! And He lives in you!

St. Paul said it best, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

Remember Mary did nothing. No one was more passive than her. She offered no resistance to what God wanted to do in her. All Mary did was to trust God to do whatever He wanted to do. Go, and do the same!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!