

Knights of Columbus
Father Albert Newman
Council 8470



December 2008
Newsletter

With Christmas being close I figured that I should try to reflect on what that one event over 2000 years ago means to us all by asking the question:

WHAT IF JESUS HAD NEVER BEEN BORN?

For sure the world would be a VASTLY different place. Because of this ONE man, a lot of significant changes over the centuries have taken place.

We delineate time into B.C. and A.D. (Before Christ, Anno Domini {The Year of Our Lord}). Jesus has been the focal point of how we understood human history

Science has advanced through the centuries as many to most of the great scientists were Christians... Johannes Kepler (Astronomy), Blaise Pascal (Math), Isaac Newton (Calculus), ... just to name a few.

The high regard for the sanctity of human life is directly attributed to Christianity.

Hospitals were begun by Christians to minister to the sick. In 325 AD, at the Council of Nicaea, not only did the church define the Trinity, they also decreed that where churches were founded, a hospital was to be founded as well.

One of the largest humanitarian organizations feeding some 10 million every year is The Salvation Army. Without The Savior (Jesus), there would be no Salvation Army.

The Red Cross, although secular today, has its beginnings with Christianity as it was founded by Swiss evangelical Henry Durant.

Institutions of higher learning would not be as prevalent as they are since most were begun to foster theological training. Prior to Jesus only a few of the elite had access to education, but that changed because of Jesus. Harvard started with money and books from Rev. John Harvard. Dartmouth was founded to train missionaries to the Indians. William and Mary was created "that the Christian faith might be propagated." Columbia University was founded "to teach children to know God in Christ Jesus." Princeton's philosophy was initially "Cursed be all learning that is contrary to the cross of Jesus Christ!"

The slave trade (Ex: William Wilberforce) and many other social issues were repealed as the result of Christians intervening in the political process.

The elevation of women's social status was begun by The Apostle Paul and continued by the work of Christians.

The world's languages have been, and are being, codified and written because Christ followers sought to translate the Bible into every human language. Johann Gutenberg invented the movable press for the sole reason of mass printing the Bible.

The "Great Experiment" of the United States wouldn't have happened had it not been for Jesus. 50 to 52 of the 56 signers of the Constitution are believed to be Christians.

The Power Of Jesus To Transform Lives. Jacob DeShazer (WWII Bomber, turned missionary), John Newton (Slave Ship Captain turned pastor), C.S. Lewis (Agnostic turned Christian Apologist), Chuck Colson (Watergate turned Evangelist by reading "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis.), Dwight D. Eisenhower is the only president to be converted, confirmed, and baptized while in office. And there are millions more examples! Because of Him, there were so many things that have happened in human history that there probably wouldn't be enough room even in the whole world for the books that would be written, to paraphrase John 21:25.

It's true that because of Jesus Christ the preceding events / discoveries took place. But these do not reveal the TRUE reason why we should be concerned with the statement "What if Jesus had not been born"

According to the Catholic Catechism, "God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life."

By man's free will he alienated himself from God and had NO way to get back to him.

If Jesus Had Never Been Born:

A) We Would Have No Intimate Knowledge Of God!!!!

We would not know God as our Faithful Heavenly Father and Companion

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God> For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba Father. " Rom. 8:14,15

B) We Would Not Have A Redeemer, The Forgiver of Sins

One of the strongest verses in Scripture telling us this is 1 John 1:9 " If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

You and I know others who will not forgive us of sins, of wrongs done against the. They will hold a grudge, sometimes for a very long time. But God is not like that. He is ready and willing to forgive you of sins now, immediately. And to cleanse you of your sins.

If He had not been born, there would be no cross; no need for it, for His whole purpose was to go to the cross, to die for your sins.

C) If Jesus Had Not Been Born, There Would Be No God To Identify With Us!

Many times, I am sure you, and myself included, ponder and wonder if God really understands how we feel. How could He understand how I feel if He had never been flesh and blood like me.

But the fact is, He did come to earth and came in the world in the natural way, born of a woman, as a baby, and grew up just as you and I have. He can, and does identify with us. He understands what it is to be tempted. John 4:1-10; Heb 2:18;4:15

Like us, Jesus had a real physical body. He hungered, was thirsty, tired, and had emotions as like us He laughed and He wept and, of course He felt pain. Look at the cross and read what He endured for you and I.

Do you think He understands your limitations? Sure He understands there are certain things you can and cannot do. He knows that you have limitations. But with Him, nothing is impossible. What you cannot endure, He can, and He can help you to endure temptations. 1 Cor. 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Therefore, because Jesus was born, He is able to identify with us in our frustrations, limitations and temptations. We need to just stand steadfast and trust in Him to help us through trying times.

D) There Would be No Victory Over Satan

If Jesus were not born, what power or victory would you ever have over sin and the devil? Absolutely none. 1 John 3:8 tells us; "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Aren't you glad Jesus was born, because if not we would be absolutely powerless against the devil and be forever at his mercy. We would have no hope of heaven, no hope of salvation.

E) There Would Be No Hope Of His Second Coming

If there were no second coming of Jesus Christ, there would be no Christian hope, no salvation. No heaven. For we would be then condemned to our sins and doomed for hell.

To conclude: Because Jesus was born of the flesh and came and dwelt among us. He gave us an intimate knowledge of God, He can identify with us in our hurts and temptations. BUT there is Victory because of Him over Satan. And He is coming back again to take us to be home with Him. This is what we believe and what we hope for.

So let us during this Christmas season say, COME LORD JESUS!

Reference: http://webzoom.freewebs.com/jason-online/WHAT_IF_JESUS_HSD_NEVER_BEEN_BORN-2.doc

A Christmas Reflection:

(I wonder if Mary really thought about all those things?)

Mary, Did You Know?

Words and music by Mark Lowry

Mary did you know, that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know, that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know, that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered,
Will soon deliver you!

Mary did you know, that your baby boy
Will give sight to the blind man?
Mary did you know, that your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand?

Did you know, that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby,
You've kissed the face of God?

Oh, Mary did you know?
Mary did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear,
The dead will live again,
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
Praises of the Lamb?

Mary did you know, that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know, that your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations?

Did you know, that your baby boy
Was Heaven's perfect Lamb
And this sleeping Child you're holding
Is the Great I Am

Oh Mary.

Catholic Christmas Jokes

Strange Illness: It was the doctor's last patient consultation of Christmas Eve. A mother came in with her young daughter and asked if he would examine her because she had been showing some strange symptoms, including a significant increase in weight, sickness most mornings and a number of strange cravings.

He checked her out very carefully and eventually told the mother that her daughter was unquestionably pregnant. At which news she protested very strongly.

'Don't be ridiculous, my daughter has never been with a man'

The girl confirmed that this was true and added that she had never so much as kissed a man.

The doctor studied the girl very carefully, then quietly stood up, walked to the window and stared out of it.

Suspecting the worst the mother asked if there was something wrong.

"No, not really" replied the doctor. 'It might just be a coincidence, but the last time this happened a bright star appeared the East.'

Christmas Post:

"A woman went into a post office to buy some stamps for her Christmas cards. What denomination do you want ? asked the lady at the counter. 'Good God!' she replied, Has it come to this? I suppose you'd better give me twenty Catholic and twenty Presbyterian!"

Clean Living

It was Christmas and everyone seemed to be having a great time, but Father O'Rourke was not. He suddenly said to Father Kelly 'You know what. I'm fed up with all this good behaviour and clean living. Why don't go out and have good old sinful night out. We could drink, go with loose women and do whatever takes our fancy.' Are you mad?' replied Father Kelly 'This is a small town. Everyone knows who we are.' 'I don't mean we should do it here.' said his colleague. 'We could dress like everyone else and take the train to the city'

After much persuasion Father Kelly agreed to do so and off they went that night and partied until morning. They arrived home very much the worse for wear and it was then that the enormity of what they had done began to dawn on Father Kelly. 'Oh my God. We're going to have to confess our misdemeanor.' 'Don't worry.' replied Father O'Rourke 'I've already thought about this. You get changed and go into the confessional and I'll tell you all about my misdeeds and you can absolve me. Then, I'll do the same for you.'

So, a short while later Father O'Rourke went to the church and entered the confessional. 'Father, forgive me for I have sinned. I went out with a friend to celebrate Christmas last night and got drunk, had sexual relations with women, danced to wicked music and used foul language.' Father Kelly replied 'God is patient and forgiving and so am I. Do five Our Fathers, five Hail Marys and your sins will be forgiven.'

A short while later their positions were reversed and Father Kelly confessed everything in great detail. 'This is an outrage.' exclaimed Father O'Rourke. 'What kind of priest are you? Do five hundred Our Fathers, Five hundred Hail Marys, donate all your income for the next three months to the church, go right round the church on your knees fifty times, asking God's forgiveness as you do so. Then come back to me and maybe I'll consider absolution.' 'What?' said the astonished Father Kelly 'What about our agreement?' Father O'Rourke replied 'What I do with my time off is one thing, but I take my job very seriously.'

REMEMBER



Council 8470 Scheduled Events Calendar for the Columbian Year 2008 – 2009

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Semi-annual District Deputies meeting	Jan. 17 – 18, 2009
St. Patrick's Winter Carnival	Jan. 11, 2009
1 st Degree – St. Albert the Great	Jan 22, 2009
Pancake Breakfast	Jan. 25, 2009
St. Patrick's Valentine Dinner/Dance	Feb. 14, 2009
1 st Degree – St. Albert the Great	Feb. 19, 2009
Council Retreat (Cochrane)	Feb. 28, 2009
FLC Legacy Dinner (Fr. Lacombe Center)	Mar. 13, 2009
Pancake Breakfast/Membership drive	Mar. 15, 2009
Day of the Unborn – Mass with evening prayer at Patrick's	Mar. 25, 2009
Founders Day	Mar. 29, 2009
Annual K. of C. Convention (red Deer)	April 24/25/26, 2009
Pancake Breakfast	May 03, 2009
Council election nominations for new executive	May 12, 2009
1 st Degree – St. Albert the Great	May 21, 2009
Spaghetti Dinner – Karaoke night	May 23, 2009
Council Elections for new executive	June 09, 2009
Annual K. of C. Garage Sale	June 13, 2009
K. of C. Stampede Breakfast	July 05, 2009