

## MHJ and the Incarnation

### *Jesus in our hearts*

Throughout the pages of this website you will read much about our faith, our beliefs, our theology and our apostolates. Each, in its own way, serves to give us definition, and structure, and cohesion. Each helps to provide a visible outline, a depiction, of who we are and what we do. But, in much the same way that an artist's sketch can only suggest the beauty of a portrait yet to be painted, our principles, our values and our ministries, vital as they are, are only the contours, the etching of the image God is creating on the canvas of our lives. They do not reveal the essence of who we are because they do not completely or adequately convey-incarnate-the heart of the artist.

What is most essential to who we are is our spirituality. It is incarnational, Christ truly present in the world through us. It is the plan, the design of our Father that the life of Jesus, his nature, his compassion, his humility, his very Person be brought to fulfillment and completion in us. We are his Mystical Body, and through us the world continues to see him and hear him. Through us the hurting can touch him and feel him and experience his solace. Through us the fearful can learn to trust him; and those who are far from him can come to know him and believe in the One who sent him. *"He wishes us to perfect the mystery of his Incarnation, of his birth and his hidden life, by forming himself in us and being reborn in our souls through the holy sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist, making us live a spiritual and interior life hidden with him in God. He intends to perfect us in the mystery of his passion, death, and resurrection, by making us suffer, die and rise again with him and in him. He wishes to fulfill in us the state of his glorious and immortal heavenly life, when he will cause us to live a glorious, eternal life with him and in him in heaven."* John Eudes

"He who has seen me has seen the Father." Jesus enfleshed the invisible God, the God who is Love and who, because of this inexpressible love, sent his Son to reconcile His creation to Himself; to return us to His embrace. We have now been called to continue and perpetuate this ministry of reconciliation. As he is the image of the Father, so we are to be the image of the Son. We are to become Jesus enfleshed by surrendering our lives so fully and wholly to him that his life will be fully and wholly lived in us. When others see us they must see him who is the Savior. When they hear us they must hear him who is the Truth. When they touch us they must touch him who is the Healer. When they encounter us, they must truly encounter Jesus himself, who continues through us to redeem and sanctify, to heal and restore, to reveal and convey, tangibly and concretely, the unfathomable, inexhaustible love of our Father.

As fire consumes an object it also transforms that object into fire itself. In the same manner, when the fire of God, the Holy Spirit, consumes a life he transforms that life into an 'other Christ.' *"When this consummation happens, the soul will be entirely clothed with Jesus and his glory; it will be transformed into him, so perfect will the union be that they will be the same gifts, the same graces, the same glory, the same spirit, the same Christ."* Olier

Who are we? The surest answer to that question can be found in another one: Who are we becoming? We are, as individuals and as a community, seeking to be transformed into 'other Christs.' The more salient question then is not who are we, but rather, who is he? It is his life, his love, his heart, his very being that we seek to incarnate, to make present to others. Our truest identity is our total integration into the life of Christ. Our most complete, our only self expression is Jesus who communicates himself through us. We are the voice, but he is the Word. We are the lamp, but he is the Light. We are the womb. He is the Life within. We are 'ministers and stewards of the glorious riches of that mystery, hidden for ages and generations, but now revealed to the saints: Christ in us, the hope of glory.' Col. 1:25-27