



In the tradition of the
Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

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No. 8

Loving Relationships

...the greatest (of these) is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

What is it about this Advent/Christmas season that touches our hearts to be more kind, more generous, more loving? It is as though, suddenly we are reminded about who we are in the great scheme of things—made in the image and likeness of the Creator of all that is!

You can't escape the “magic” of Christmas carols playing on the radio and in stores; the lights appearing on trees, windows and homes; the generosity to those who are less fortunate....

Whatever possessed Hallmark to have non-stop Christmas movies that celebrate the beauty and wonder of the season? It is LOVE! Love is the reason... love strengthens all that we do during this time. “In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son....” (1 John 4:10)

For a short period of time each year, we remember that **“LOVE CAME FORTH FROM NAZARETH!”**

Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd knew this instinctively.... She lived and breathed its spirit and dynamism. *“Let us pray to be animated by divine life...pervaded by the spirit of the Holy Family and to be inspired by the virtues which were fostered in the Home of Nazareth.”* (Letter #160, 1894)



During this Advent and Christmas season, may we recognize all the small tokens of love which come our way through our co-workers, our students, our patients, our clients, our families, etc. May love be the center of all that we do in the season of the Holy Family!

Stories are formative. This means they touch our hearts and give us pause to reflect. Jesus and many religious leaders use stories to capture the depths of our hearts. Do you have a story to share with your partners in ministry? If you do, please send it to me to be shared with everyone.

May you and your family be richly rewarded during this season of the Holy Family with many blessings and may you count them in the 100's!!

I wish you a blessed Advent and a most joyous celebration of Christmas with your family.

In the Holy Family,

Sister Barbara Jean

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