



When Getting Becomes Giving

Recently I was talking to a grandmother who had observed a major shift in her young grandchildren while they were at the St. Mary's Holly Fair last weekend. Expecting that the children would be looking for gifts they hoped to receive, they were actually excited about what they were going to buy for one another and for their parents. They had "turned the corner" with the realization that Christmas is about GIVING as much as it is about GETTING.

In fact, as much as we all love to receive gifts, it can be even more enjoyable to give them to others. I remember well the years when my nieces and nephews were younger. Early in December, I would head to Toys R Us for a couple of hours of shopping. I would have my shopping list in hand and knew exactly what each one of them wanted. I don't go to Toys R Us any longer and I do miss that trip. But thinking about what to give them for Christmas is still a big part of my Advent season each year.

When Christmas arrives in just two weeks we will all receive some gifts from the special people in our lives. But may our true Christmas joy be found in the gifts we give to others. For this is the ultimate joy that God himself knew when he gave His Son to the world. Yes, the Angels were singing and the shepherds rejoiced, but just imagine God's own joy in giving the world a Savior.



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