

Sister's Spin

Among Christmas Carols, there is a little song, probably written for children, called ***The Friendly Beasts***. It tells of the various gifts of the animals in the stable that first Christmas Night. How aware of His surroundings Jesus was that first Christmas Night is a mystery to me,,,,,, but in His lifetime, Jesus, I think, recalled the generous gifts of those animals. He chose a donkey-his first ride into Judea-- for His last ride into the city of Jerusalem. In His ministry, He spoke of the trust of the birds who did not worry about what to eat or how their feathers looked or other needs, for their Father would always take care of them. And the sheep--how He loved the sheep! He called Himself the Good Shepherd and reminded us of how He would search for the lost ones and carry the lambs so tenderly in His arms. He never really spoke of the cow though, yet He was very aware that this gift was the most special. For it was the feeding trough in which the tender baby was laid. Remembering the gift of the cow,, Jesus gave Himself to us as the Bread of Life--food for the world. He--Emmanuel, God With Us--gives Himself to us in the Eucharist to fulfill our need for Daily Bread, to feed our hunger for God. Perhaps a fairy tale song, but rich with meaning. As these creatures inhabit our stable scenes this Christmas, let their gifts be a reminder to us of the One Who gave the first and greatest Gift, His only Son, Emmanuel, who desires to be with us through the Eucharist. May we be as open to receiving His Gifts as the animals were generous in giving theirs on that first Christmas Night!.

Merry Christmas!

Sister Marcianne

