

## FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we continue our pilgrimage together, let us turn our hearts with great joy to the feast of Our Lady of Loreto, which we celebrate on Wednesday, December 10. This feast is far more than a simple liturgical observance or a nod to ancient traditions; it is a vibrant, living invitation to encounter the God who became man, who pitched His tent among us in the most ordinary and hidden of places. It calls us to a profound conversion, reminding us that the mystery of the Incarnation is not confined to history but unfolds anew in our lives, in our families, and in our parish today.

Let us meditate deeply on the Scriptures that illuminate this mystery. As Saint John proclaims in his Gospel: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” This dwelling, this tabernacling of God with humanity, finds its most intimate expression in the Holy House of Nazareth, now venerated in Loreto, Italy. Tradition holds that this very house - the humble abode where the young Mary lived - was miraculously transported by angels from the Holy Land to the town of Loreto in the late 13th century, during a time of great peril from invading forces. Protected through divine intervention, it has become a pilgrimage site for centuries, drawing the faithful to touch the walls where heaven met earth. Imagine, brothers and sisters: these stones witnessed the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary, saying, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” It was here that Mary, in her poverty and simplicity, responded with her eternal fiat: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” And in this sacred space, the Word took flesh in her womb, growing under her heart as she pondered these things in silence.

But the Holy House is not just a relic of the past; it is the cradle of the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - where they lived in everyday obedience, labor, and prayer. Joseph, the just man, worked with his hands as a carpenter, teaching the young Jesus the dignity of human toil. Mary, the contemplative one, nurtured the Savior in a home filled with the aroma of simple meals and the rhythm of Jewish prayers. This family, hidden from the world’s gaze, reveals God’s preference for the lowly: “He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly.” In our own time, marked by noise, distraction, and secularism, the feast of Our Lady of Loreto challenges us: Are our homes places where Christ dwells? Do we invite Him into our daily routines, our meals, our conversations? This is a call to radical conversion - to sweep away the idols of comfort and self-sufficiency, and to make our families small domestic churches, where the Word is proclaimed, sins are forgiven in reconciliation, and the Eucharist becomes the center of our lives.

We are invited to see Our Lady of Loreto as the archetype of the Church herself - the new Ark of the Covenant, carrying Christ to the world. She is the new Eve, who, by her obedience, undoes the knot of Eve’s disobedience, crushing the serpent’s head and becoming the Mother of all the Living. Just as she listened attentively to the angel’s word, so we are called to listen to the Scriptures, allowing them to pierce our hearts and reveal our sinfulness. As she bore Christ in her womb, we are invited to receive Him in the Eucharist with awe, singing the ancient hymns and psalms that echo through our assemblies. And as she pondered all things in her heart, we too are invited to reflect on God’s actions in our lives, sharing testimonies of how He has liberated us from slavery to sin, just as He led Israel out of Egypt.

This feast also stirs our missionary zeal. The Holy House, transported across seas and lands, symbolizes the Church’s universal call to evangelize - to carry the Good News to the peripheries, as Pope Francis urges. We are invited to announce the Kerygma: that Christ has died, risen, and sent the Holy Spirit to forgive sins and grant eternal life. Brothers and sisters, let us not keep this treasure hidden!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. Jason".