



JOY

TRUE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
(12/18/05)

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (12/18/05) commenting on the scene of the Annunciation as recounted in today's Gospel (4th Sunday of Advent): "With the angel's greeting to Mary – 'kaire' in the Greek, which means 'be joyful' – the New Testament begins," he said. "We could say that the first word of the New Testament is 'be joyful,' 'be happy,' in other words, 'joy.' This is the true meaning of Christmas: God is near us, so near that He became a child."

The Holy Father then highlighted how "we realize that today's world, where God is absent, is dominated by fear, by uncertainty." Nonetheless, "the words 'be joyful because God is with you and with us,' truly open a new time."

“Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives.”