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CONTEMPLATA ALIIS TRADERE

The holy season of Christmas, filled as it is with the glories of the Word made Flesh, brings to mind the perfect exemplar and most perfect fulfillment of the spirit of the Dominican Order—*Contemplata Aliis Tradere*—to give to others the fruit of contemplation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1, 1)

From all eternity the Son proceeds from the Father—equally wise, equally good, equally holy, equally divine, the perfect expression of the Father, the perfect image of the Father—the perfect Son.

The Son is truly God, possessing fully the same Divine nature as the Father. One with the Father in nature, He is distinct from the Father in Person. The coming forth of the Son in the bosom of the Father is through intellectual generation. The Son is the fruit of perfect intellection, the perfect act of knowledge contemplating its own perfect being. The infinitely perfect intellect of the Father contemplating the Divine perfection begets the Son—the most perfect fruit of the most perfect contemplation—the Divine Word.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. (John 1, 14)

“When the fulness of time came God sent His Son, born of a woman.” (Gal. 4, 4) In Bethlehem of Juda the Word of God was born of the flesh of the Virgin. The light of the first Christmas day dawned on God made Man. For a short span of thirty three years He would carry out the visible mission for which He was sent, the redemption of man. Eternally proceeding from the Father, the Word, existing in a new way on earth, Incarnate, would carry out His mission as Author of Grace, Savior of mankind. The Father has truly given to men the fruit of His own contemplation.

In this twofold mystery of the Incarnate Word which embraces the Divine fecundity within the Godhead and the Divine generosity toward men we find the beginning and the end, the inspiration and consummation of the ideal of the Dominican Order—to give to others the fruit of contemplation.

It is in this spirit that *Dominicana* very humbly extends to all its friends sincere wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Fruitful New Year.