



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

December 25, 2024

Sr. Toni Longo, ASC

*"Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and
see for ourselves what God has revealed to us."*

(Luke 2:15)



When Vicky asked me to prepare a reflection for Christmas, she suggested Luke 2:1-20. The Bible I use for prayer is *"The Message"* by Eugene Peterson, which mostly has a different way of saying things, so I picked it up and was drawn to these words of the shepherds:

*"Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and
see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." (Luke 2:15)*

How many times have we heard, or read, or proclaimed these words? I know for me, it's been many...many times. But I never heard them the same way. This time, I heard, "Let me get there as fast as I can and see for myself what God has revealed to me." I had to stop and wonder, at least in the recent past, how these words been true in my life. When have I left everything to move as fast as I can toward the revelation of God, however it comes?

The shepherds made their way to Bethlehem. I am called to make my way to my ministry at the UISG with as much wonder as they had, or even more, because I know who I will meet there, because He is there waiting for me. I am called to reach out to those I meet and find him there, to meet the poor and homeless on the streets of Rome and meet the Christ in them. I am called to cherish and reverence this earth we call our Common Home and, finding the Christ there, in everything, and be ready and willing to do all I can to restore it to its natural beauty and keep it from more harm.

Then there's the call to walk (run?) toward something I don't understand, someplace where I do not know what I will meet or how it will turn out. Sometimes walking (running?) like that leads me to places of reconciliation...places that call for healing, giving, and receiving God's loving mercy already present. The list could go on and on...

The question I put before us for our reflection on this Christmas Day "Like the shepherds am I ready and willing to leave my comfort zone, to go and be and do all I do expecting to find Emmanuel, the Christ, the revelation of God's love in time, and worship him with my life?"

Sr. Toni Longo ASC has been a vowed member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ for over sixty years. She has served the community in many capacities. She is currently serving in Rome. To learn more about the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org