

Notes from the Loft  
12-19-10

## The Evangelical Catholic – Part 11 – CHRISTMAS IS COMING...REJOICE!

I've done a great deal of inward exploration over the last several weeks about Christmas and how I view it as an Evangelical Catholic. We sing the same old songs, don't we? We go to the same old mass, don't we? But something about Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass is so special... why is that? I'll tell you MY secular opinion of why this is... there are more people at church and they are all happy to be there, so they sing, pray and worship together loudly!!!

The additional "shot" of congregation members adds something to our worship and make it an inspiring thing to behold and to participate in. Why can't we have them every week?? I know, I know...some of them are from far away and are visiting for the holiday, so they can't make it every week. But what about those folks who live in town our surrounding our town who are "underchurched"? What can we do as a worshipping community to encourage them to come back every week to our church? The first thing we can do is to set a superb example for them by turning our heart to the Lord at this festive mass. Show the people who are visiting what your worship spirit is made of!! After mass, if you see someone at church whom you haven't seen in a long time...Go and offer them a handshake or at least a "hello" and strike up some conversation with them. Be warm and inviting to them!

This Christmas season is one during which SO many people feel alone, but at the same time offers us the opportunity to reach out and bring them together with others. Let's reach out! Let's worship! Let's Rejoice! We celebrate the Lord's first coming to earth, and we also anticipate his second coming at this mass...let's use it to share our Joy with as many others as we possibly can!!

**LET'S EVANGELIZE!!!!**

God bless you, and I look forward to worshipping with you on Christmas!!

Mike Hengelsberg