Understanding the IHM Charism

Lessons from St. Alphonsus Liguori

Christmas Devotional: The Crib—Love Made Visible

The Crib: A Sacred Invitation

On Christmas Day, we are drawn to the Crib—not just as a charming image of the Nativity, but as a profound symbol of divine love. St. Alphonsus Liguori saw the Crib as the heart of the Incarnation, where God chose to enter our world in the most vulnerable way: as a child.

In the Crib, heaven bends low. The infinite becomes intimate. The Creator becomes one with His creation. For Alphonsus. this moment reveals the depth of God's desire to be close to us—not in majesty, but in humility.

Three Signs Of Redeeming Love

St. Alphonsus taught that the Crib, the Cross, and the Eucharist form a sacred journey of love:

- **The Crib**: Love that draws near
- **The Cross**: Love that sacrifices
- **The Eucharist:** Love that remains

Each invites us to encounter Christ personally and respond with wonder, gratitude, and devotion.

Christmas Reflection: As you celebrate today, pause before the Crib. Let its quiet beauty speak to your heart. What does it mean that God chose to be born into your world, your story, your humanity?

Prayer: Jesus, You came not with fanfare, but with tenderness. In the Crib, I see Your heart—open, humble and full of love. Help me to welcome You not just today, but every day. May Your presence transform my life with peace and joy. Amen.

