

2020 Advent Reflection

December 24, 2020

Reflection by Sister Elaine Garry

One of the readings for December 24, 2020 comes from the Gospel of Matthew and is the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David. Each year as I listen to it being read I admire the priest who has to remember and pronounce all those most difficult names. I have not always appreciated that reading and yet this year the importance came to me most clearly. It is important to know the genealogy of the human ancestors of Jesus.

Recently some of my family members were on a Zoom to celebrate the early memories of my cousin Patrick Garry. How do I know Patrick? Well, Pat's mom became very ill when Pat was only 2 years old, and so the entire family had to be placed in a different home environment. Some went to the Presentation Sisters orphanage in Sioux Falls and Pat, being too young to be accepted into the orphanage, my family agreed to raise Pat. Pat lived with my family from age 2 until he went to college in Mitchell.

Now back to the Zoom ... Pat died in 1989 and his wife invited Pat's siblings, his children, myself and Father Ron Garry to be a part of the Zoom experience. We were each invited to share stories of how we were related to Pat and as I participated in this Zoom experience I watched as Pat's siblings who did not grow up with him heard stories that I told of the Pat that I knew. I watched as Pat's children, now married with families, heard stories of their dad as told by me and Pat's siblings who also did not know all the stories of Pat. Knowing our past and how we fit into the total picture helps us appreciate the life of the individual that is being remembered.

To remember who Jesus' parents, grandparents and great grandparents are helpful to get a fuller picture of Jesus. **Thanks, Jesus, for coming among us and help us to love our heritage and from whom we come.**