



I AM A BLESSING FOR YOU

1 JANUARY

A face of light, a face of peace.... The face of a God who only Moses and Jacob were able to look at directly. The face of an unreachable God from whom Jesus removed the veil of distance and became a blessing. The face of the Holy One whom man could not contemplate, but in Jesus he gave of himself as a loving Father.

Through Moses and Aaron, God turned his face toward his people Israel and became their liberation, security and guide.

The Omnipotent reached out to Mary and filled her with his love, and through her womb, became the face of man, conceivable forgiveness and total gift.

Through his messengers, the feared judge reached the shepherds in their common uncleanness and made them the protagonists of the joy awaited by the just ones—the birth of the Messiah.

The incarnate God became the amazement of his people who received the long-awaited announcement not from the high priest, but from shepherds.

In that Baby called Jesus, God's blessing continues to shine on the people even now.

God "speaks well" of us who are his creatures, forever loved by him, and he gives us our most intimate identity which is to be his children, through Jesus Christ. [Benedire, Italian for blessing, means literally to speak well or "dire" "bene"]

God untiringly goes through every closed door, enters into every unclean daily experience, and blesses our existence. The announcement of peace and blessing strengthens and intensifies the new phase that is beginning. In Jesus, it becomes the call to build a new, promising, and courageous fraternity. We are brothers and sisters because we are sons and daughters. We are sons and daughters because we are loved. We are loved because we are fragile.

God bends his face toward us, and he makes our own face a blessing for others.

MY ACTION FOR TODAY

Bless! Become blessing for those with whom you live. Pronounce blessings toward those who are not your friends. Be blessing for those who are blocked by sadness and do not believe in themselves. Bless, speak well, value the good, rejoice in the good, wish what is good to all, but especially bless those with whom it is harder to relate with esteem and trust.

A BLESSING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Father, because in Jesus, your Son and our Lord, you fulfilled every promise, blessed all people, "and bent down your merciful face toward us." Blessed are you, O God, because today humanity can call you Father!

**«The Lord
let his face
shine upon
you and
give you
peace...»**

From the Liturgy
of 1 January.