



Office of the Vice President for Mission

TO: The Gonzaga Community
FROM: Frank E. Case, S.J. and Shanea Giroux
SUBJ: Moment for Mission
DATE: December 4, 2012

Finding God in Christmas

Many years ago, in the early years of the ecumenical movement, KING TV in Seattle hosted a weekly televised discussion among a Catholic priest, Fr. William Tracy, a rabbi, Joseph Levine, and one of a series of rotating Protestant ministers. During one Christmas season the priest and the minister had taken over the discussion to the point that Rabbi Levine was becoming a part of the audience. The two were bemoaning at length the increasing secularization of Christmas. Finally, Rabbi Levine, in his wry Jewish way, intervened saying, "Gentlemen, gentlemen, take it easy; the economy benefits from the seasonal boost." Is God in the economy? As an economist and a priest, I don't see why not. After all, we Jesuits are taught to find God in all things.

God comes to us in many ways. We don't have to go searching; that can become spiritually and emotionally exhausting and frustrating. It is really a matter of *recognizing* God and developing an habitual awareness of how God's grace works in and with us – through creation, through other people, even in the course of carrying out our work. We can be reminded of his presence in our co-workers as we attend the holiday parties and release the stress of the work day. I've even gotten into the habit of saying a little prayer of thanks to the Lord and to St. Anthony when I find a parking place in a crowded part of town. (St. Anthony is the patron saint of finding lost things. Even though I had not really *lost* the parking place, he seems to be good at helping me *find* one.)

God is present in the depths of our being and all around us. Listen deeply and you will hear; look deeply and you will see.