

Tuesday 1st of Advent

Gospel text (Lk 10,21-24): Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and said, «I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth (...)». Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said to them privately, «Fortunate are you to see what you see (...)».

The importance of History in the Christian Faith

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we are witnessing the prayer of Jesus in communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ takes his disciples as witnesses. For the Biblical faith is essential to refer to historical events. It does not tell stories symbolizing suprahistorical truths, but is based on history that took place here on this earth. The "factum historicum" is not an interchangeable symbolic key that can be replaced, but the foundation on which it stands.

"Et incarnatus est": with these words we acknowledge God's actual entry into real History. If we push this history aside, Christian faith as such disappears and is recast as "some other" religion. So if history (its facticity) is an essential dimension part of Christian faith, then faith must expose itself to a "historic method" for its interpretation. Indeed, faith itself demands this: the "historical-critical method" is an indispensable tool (although not sufficient) given the structure of the Christian faith.

—O Jesus, I acknowledge Your Incarnation as a historical fact, and at the same time, I confess that You are God.