

Las Posadas

by Javier Tarango-Sho

Luke 2:1-7

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



The Bible and the Las Posadas tradition teach us that Joseph and Mary searched for shelter while in Bethlehem, but because of the many people traveling because of the census, there was no room. As a result, the Son of God, the savior of the world, was born not among the wealthy and resourced, but among farm animals.

Like Joseph and Mary's difficulties in finding shelter, Latinos who have come to college often find themselves struggling to find a home, a place where we feel welcomed and cared for. But like God was faithful to provide place of shelter for Joseph, Mary and the birth of Jesus, he is and will be faithful to provide for us a home while at college.

Spend a few moments of silent reflection around the places of home God has provided for you this semester.

Where have been the places where you have felt welcomed, cared for and safe to express yourself? These don't only need to be physical places, but can be events you have participated in, relationships that you have fostered, interactions you have had. Spend some time in thanksgiving to God for these places.

Undoubtedly we have also experienced circumstances that have been difficult in which we have not experienced a sense of welcome or care. What have been those situations been like? How can we ask God to enter into those situations, to bring change to the situation, to bring to us a new perspective on that situation, or both? As God was faithful to enter into humanity in Jesus, he is faithful to enter into the difficult circumstances of our lives.

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