

From this Corner
“The Best of All Gifts”

Luke 2: 19

Larry Baird

One of the things that changes as we mature is what we consider to be a Christmas treasure. I remember well my excited perusal of the Sears and Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogs. It was an annual Advent quest to find what I considered to be the perfect gift. One of those was a Roy Roger’s action figure complete with his horse Trigger. Of those childhood treasures, Roy and his steed are the only ones that remain. They still ride the “Happy Trails” of my childhood, Roy having long lost his hat and Trigger his saddle. I no longer need to “play” with them. I just look and memories do the rest.

Today in the second half of my fifth decade I realize that it is the treasures of the heart that endure. Material things seldom have the same life-span. I remember Christmas family gatherings far more than I do the material gifts. I remember for instance Grandpa Scarborough sitting just to the right of the player piano. I do not remember a single toy that he ever gave me, but I remember him listening to me peddle away at the piano, and requesting, “White Christmas” and “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” I remember being just barely big enough to reach the pedals. I remember his smile as we enjoyed each other’s presence.

And so it is. The treasures of the heart are the best and most durable.

Luke 2:19 says, “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” You will remember that what she stored in her heart was the shepherds’ account of the angelic visit and their message, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

As once again we approach the great celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, I invite you to revisit the treasures of your heart. Visit the people whom God has given you as a gift on this journey of faith. Ponder the significance and their part in your own sacred history. Include among them mother Mary and consider what she pondered and “treasured up” in her heart. Then you will know the treasures of the heart are best of all.