True Poverty of Spirit:

True poverty of Spirit differs from financial distress; it is a deliberate Choice by which we moderate our attitudes toward the good things the world offers, and the means by which we gain them.

To be poor in spirit, St. Thomas teaches, is to cultivate the habits of Simplicity and moderation that allow us to look beyond what will

Satisfy us for a short time today, in order to lay claim to a satisfaction without end in the future.

Third decade of Franciscan Crown Rosary Meditation

3. Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

Give us true poverty of Spirit, Lord

*The Fear of the Lord*

# True poverty of spirit is asked by me in the Franciscan Crown Rosary. I am asked for it in between two paradoxical Ideas. One the joyful birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and two the sobering gift of the Holy Spirit, the Fear of the Lord. St. Aquinas has a softer interpretation of Fear of the Lord when he says it’s a filial fear based on seeking the approval of a parent and not necessarily a fear of punishment. Still the conglomeration of ideas around the third mystery, the Nativity, stretches the boundaries of my imagination. What I can say is the abject poverty of the Lord born in the stable gives us a target of how poor or as unfettered by materialistic needs a person can be. The resilient and purposeful existence that the Christ child would live gives as an example of filial obedience to God the Father which we should copy when we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit: Fear of the Lord.