

for man: how His atonement for sin would result in a superabundance of grace, whereby the law of fear which had heretofore prevailed would yield before the sweet yoke of His love; how, through the Institution of the Holy Eucharist He would make his abode even to the end of the world with the children of men; how, lastly, the Church He came to establish was to be the means at once and the pledge of the salvation of the elect.

I will not attempt to describe what all human expression is powerless to render, since beyond the veil of the Holy Family the whole Church of God was concealed, with all her mysteries of joys and sorrows, her lifelong struggles and her eternal triumph. When about to leave the grotto, I could but repeat within myself the words of the angel's midnight canticle: Glory be to God in the highest, and peace, on earth to men of good will!"

From the holy Crib westward an underground corridor, leads through a system of grottoes which recall some souvenirs connected with the Nativity. Of these the first one, dedicated to St. Joseph, is adorned with a masterly painting of the "Flight into Egypt;" the next one, dedicated to the Holy Innocents, also contains a fine painting which illustrates Jeremiah's prophetic words; "Vox in Rama audita est; Rachel plorans filios...." At the extremity of the corridor is found the Grotto immortalized by St. Jerome who spent in this hermitage many years of ceaseless study and prayers. Around his cell that great Servant of God, that fearless champion of His written Word founded many monasteries to honor by their psalmody the cradle of the Word Incarnate..

An illustrious Roman lady St. Paula and her daughter, having left the world to spend their lives in the service of God, were for many years the guardian angels whom Divine Providence directed to minister to the needs of the saintly hermit; after spending their wealth in works of charity, the mother and her child died an edifying death and were laid to rest in one common grave at but a short distance from the cradle of