Dimanche dans l’Octave de Noel 2014

« Voici qu’il est placé pour la chute et le relèvement d’un grand nombre en Israël,

et pour être un signe en butte à la contradiction. » (Lc. 2, 34)

 « Whilst all things kept a profound silence, and night was in the middle of her course, Thine All-Powerful Word, O Lord, leapt down from heaven, even from His royal throne. » (cf. Sap. 18, 14-15) These exceedingly rich lines from today’s Introit contain, as it were, a little « Summa » of the Mystery of the Incarnation.

 In the first place… « a profound silence. » We become open to the Mystery of the Incarnation when we actively cultivate a profound interior silence. This silence is not empty, but rather is a necessary condition for the experience of Wonder. When children hear or see something beautiful for the first time, they naturally fall silent. This falling silent and delighting in the presence of awe-full Mystery is the experience of Wonder, and is the heart of prayer.

 It is no accident that the Mystery of Noel occurs each year when night « is in the middle of her course » : the Mass of Midnight, celebrated on what liturgically is the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice. From the Mass of Midnight, the Light of the Christ Child waxes, dispelling the darkness of this world, and illuminating the depths of our being.

 The Infant Christ is, of course, also the All-Powerful Eternal Word of God, who did not merely *condescend* to become one of us, but rather eagerly *leapt* *down* from the Bosom of the Blessed Trinity to go in search of His lost Creation.

 « O come, let us adore Him! »