

Why Do We Call Spring “Spring” ?

We call this time of year spring because during the winter months many of the plants will either die or go dormant, but in the Spring time of year the flowers bloom and the new life Springs out from the old.

And, the more interesting question,

“Why was March 25th made New Year’s Day ?”

That question has the same answer as the question,

Why do we count the years as AD 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, etc. ?

A long time ago, the years were numbered according to a ruler’s reign. For example, the 28th year of the reign of Caesar Augustus, or the 2nd year of the reign of Caesar Nero.

In the sixth century Pope John I asked Dionysius Exiguus [his name translated into English as “Dennis the Little”] to calculate the dates for Easter in the coming years.

Easter does not fall on the same calendar date each year. It is a movable feast.

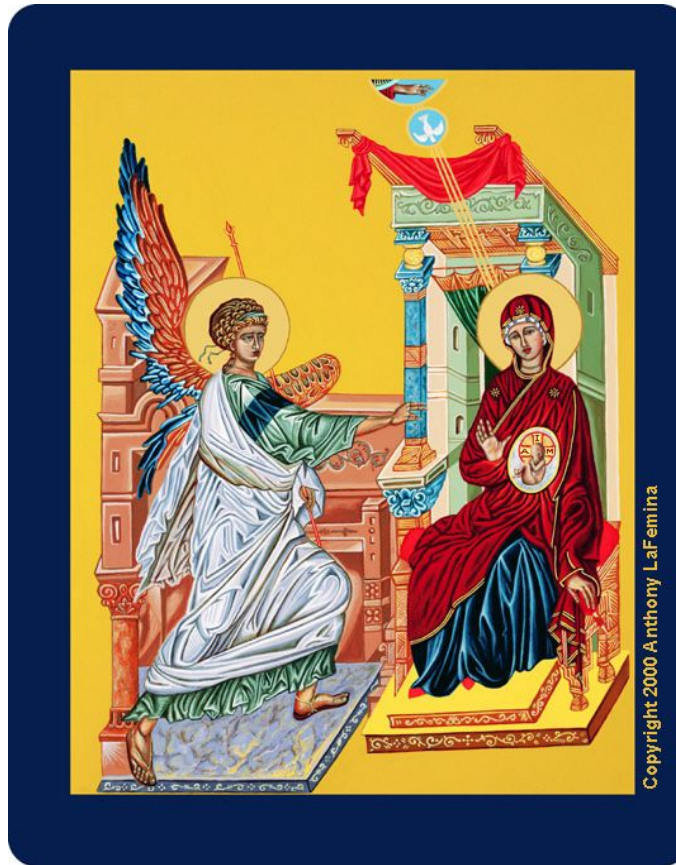
Dionysius produced his book *Liber de Paschate* in 532 AD. He based his new calendar on the coming of Jesus Christ.

He called his new calendar charts “cycles.” He explains his new way of numbering the years.

He wrote :

“We have been unwilling to connect our cycle with the name of an impious persecutor [Diocletian], but have chosen rather to note the years from the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ ...”

The Miracle



Nine Months Before Christmas

Matthew 1:18

“Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

When his mother Mary was ... found with child through the Holy Spirit.” Cf. Luke 1:26f

He had begun his new book with the words: “**Anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi DXXXII**” (Latin for “in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 532,” or abbreviated as **A.D.** 532).

This is why the current year is counted as the number of years after the coming of Jesus Christ.

Since, Jesus was born on December 25, and counting back nine months before that we can, approximately, conclude He was conceived on March 25th. That is why March 25th was made New Year’s Day by Dennis the Little in the sixth century. This lasted until the adoption of our current calendar. In AD 1752 new Year’s Day was moved to January 1st for England and her American colonies. But, in AD 1751 New Year’s Day was March 25th.

The coming of Jesus Christ is the turning point of all history. This is why we count the years as BC or AD. Greater than the miracle of Christmas is the miracle of the Incarnation when Jesus came into the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary nine months before the first Christmas.

“Christ is ‘the goal of human history, the focal point of the desires of history and civilization, the center of mankind, the joy of all hearts, and the fulfillment of all aspirations’ ”

[JPII *Mane nobiscum Domine* 6]