

YEAR OF FAITH

Newsletter -no 2



Enter the Year of Faith no. 2

**ADVENT MEANS LISTENING TO
THE DEEPEST PART OF YOUR
SPIRIT**

HOW TO USE BULLETIN No. 2

Many people will tell you in very quiet words that they learnt more about their elderly mother or father when they spent days with them in the hospital. Very few words were spoken aloud but there was a lot of communication happening in the silence and in the eyes.

Do not try to talk too much with God. Just stop. Turn off your i phone and just be in God's presence.

Allow God to come to you. Allow your heart to be vulnerable to how God may touch you. In your spirit be naked before God.

Listen with your heart... and listen deep within your heart!



ADVENT MEANS LISTENING

When we were children and began to compare ourselves to other kids who had more material things, their bike was better and they could afford designer clothes. Our father would take us aside and point out: "When you are out shopping and walking through the malls search the faces of the people. Who is smiling and who really enjoys life?" Then he would pause, reach down to retie his shoelace which always indicated that this meant a lot to

him. "Happiness only comes from the inside. If money makes people happy then the more you have, the more time you are going to spend smiling and sharing your joy with others. Do you find the kids with lots of money smiling when they walk through the malls?" We knew the next question coming in his slow speech. "Is having more money going to make you a joyful person?"

Continued..

The actual spirit of Advent is to slow down; actually, to come to a complete stop. Pay attention to the deep pounding within your own heart. The beat of your heart is a lot more than just so many numbers per minute. What are your deepest hungers? What is going to give you meaning and purpose every day of your life?

We have only to follow the evening news to know that all is not right with the world, or with our own family as a matter of fact. Could not life and our society be more harmonious? Would someone turn the angers within our family into words of peace and understanding? Keep track of the many nights you wake up, worried about your friend whose son has taken off on a season-long drug binge? You worry that they might lose their son on the streets of one of our big cities.

Listen to the longing in your heart of all the sinful things you have done, but most of all the violent and vengeful thoughts that you fomented against others. You want God's radical forgiveness to the darkness within. Listen to your petitions to be the prayer of the sinful thief crucified beside Jesus who asked that Jesus "remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Lk. 23, 42)

May you be blest, Father,
for that day
when our eyes will find your face!



An Advent Prayer

God, Christmas is coming and I thought that I should send you a list of things that I want this year. I'm sending it early, so that you will have enough time to do the shopping. I know that I should not confuse you with Santa Claus; however, I think I might need some of the following:

1. A place to go to get away from all the ads.
2. A day of silence to just be with the mystery of incarnation.
3. A chance to be of service to the poor.
4. A little more time to be with my family and friends.
5. Some time to meditate on the fact that Jesus was born poor.

ADVENT IS.....

And Jesus turned to the man: "Today, you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk. 23,43) Is not the same desires, the same pain crying out from the very center of your life? When you light your candles of the Advent wreath, is not this prayer an action arising from the tears, the anxieties and the guilt of your own life?

Be in tune with the deep feelings within your spirit that wants to do things right. You want to live correctly, treat all people fairly and not be nourishing a bloated ego. You want to be better than you are.

This afternoon, in the privacy of your own vehicle, you gave what-for to the driver in front of you who did not seem to know where to turn. As you drove by you caught sight of a frightened grandmother, obviously lost in the rush of the city traffic.

A woman in one of the crowds recognized the wonderful situation of Jesus and she praised him. He turned this around and gave praise to the faithful followers of the Kingdom. "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Lk. 11,28)

Be grasped by the intense desires within your personality that you be a better person.

Pray that you give it your best and live as a faithful disciple of Jesus.

Pray the Gospel takes root in your daily life.

Where do you feel the stirrings of the Holy Spirit in your life?



Let the day
come, Lord,
when our
tears
will find your
smile.

Light of life that shines in
the darkness!

Be so kind as to bestow
on all people

our brothers and sisters,
your splendour and your
truth

so that they may
recognize you as saviour,

and give them your life
and your joy

so that they will love you
as God.

Lord Jesus, come to us
this day.

COME TO ME LIKE A CRY OF JOY

by Lucien Diess

*Come, Lord Jesus Christ!
When my life sinks in
sadness,
come to me like a cry of joy.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ!
When my heart is as hard as
a rock,
come to me like the dew of
springtime.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ!
When noise invades my
haven,
come to me like an oasis of
silence.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ!
When the wind of hate rises
within me,
come to me like a kiss of
pardon.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ!
When I am sinking into the
darkness of death,
come to me like a child's
smile.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ!
And when the earth encloses
me in its arms,
open for me the doors of
your mercy.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ!*

*O Rising Sun! Come
to light up
those who still sleep
in the darkness of
death.*

*Guide our footsteps
on the road of peace
to your Father, who
is also our Father,
for you are our way,
our truth and our
life,
forever and ever.*

*Where do you call on
God to come into your
life?*

