

Little house of prayer for Dec. 11-17 The third Sunday of Advent (December 11)

Existent for all time ,it is in the center of us, and we do not recognize it.

Reading 1 Is 61: 1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1: 46-48,49-50,53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Reading 2: 1 Thes 5: 16-24

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Proclamation of the Holy Gospel according to John Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"

He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him,

"What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No." So they said to him,

"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?"

What do you have to say for yourself?" He said:

"I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*"

as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him,

"Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

2. Reflection of our Mother Foundress for the Third Week of Advent:

John the Baptist was the man sent by God to serve as the last prophet before the coming of the Messiah promised to Israel. He was not the light itself, but came to bring light in preparation for the coming of Jesus as the light of the world.

His preaching attracted the attention and jealousy of the Pharisees,

John testified the presence of Jesus among the Jews, humbly claiming that his baptism of repentance, it was just a preparation for the great baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, whom the Lord grants all baptized with water. And John pleased God by his humility and courage.

This week it is appropriate to think about what really is the Lord ... He is not a check I get every Sunday, as a reward for attending Mass, and then I can spend as I wish. The Lord is not soothing to use for my pain when I need it.

God is so "still" do not possess at all, who does not know at all and who do not love at all.

The Lord is coming, He whom I hope and whose coming I prepare today and forever.

Why is it so important to John the Baptist? He did great miracles, no preaching had an extensive life, then what is it that makes it great?

The sanctity of life is reflected in the constant obedience to God, His Divine Will and the recognition of truth as a way to evangelize and to follow the Messiah.

I've heard from many people that have been attributed evangelistic achievements, as if God became a means for them, not the end. They become more interested in the good of them, and people to achieve a true conversion. Here he comes to break these schemes selfish and unchristian. The true evangelist is great when it can be just a bridge, a passage way to God, as was John the Baptist.

Some believe that evangelism is to make others do all the good things they say to do.

But evangelism is to get people to be able to put their eyes on Christ, not in the evangelical ...

How to think and act a true evangelist?

John gives us a dynamic faith example at stake. He does not seek praise or greatness. I wonder who is because his life was surely a question for those who knew him.

"I am not the Messiah", states clearly and then pose additional questions, do not get satisfactory answers:

- "Are you Elijah?"

- "Are you the Prophet?"

The first stage of all evangelization is to raise questions, provoke reflections on why this or that person it is. If it is a true evangelist, the answer will always be addressed to Jesus.

Who then John the Baptist? He was just a voice calling the people to prepare the way for the coming of the King.

John preached to the people speaking of baptism and conversion, as in order for the forgiveness of sins. John prophesied the coming of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and receive the Holy Spirit, you must clean their own lives and then go clean everything around us.

The Holy Spirit can not get off to a vessel that has murky water, He goes to a glass that has the crystal clear water and that water is recreated in this fund.

Some people say they found the Lord for his encounter with him left them a Bible, and think that they need more. Others say they converted because they left their pagan festivals, nightclubs and drinking.

And the truth is that yes, all this can be a first step, but there they are in the "not yet"

John the Baptist, sent by God, he realized that he was not light, but a reflection of light. It was like the rooster who announces the birth of a new day and the Lord, owner of every day.

In the things of God coming to save us, but there are voices that announce their coming, and all baptized people of this world, we are called to be witnesses and the voice of God in every people and every nation in the world.

Men listen to our voices evangelizing, but when the voice is silent, the noise ends, leaving a word, the voice our passes, preachers and evangelists die, like John the Baptist, and one is the Word. That should be the great comfort of those who preach Christ, "My voice will disappear, but my word, which is Jesus Christ, remain in the hearts that have wanted to take him."

The Virgin Mary, who is one of the leading figures in this season of Advent and Christmas, will show the spirit of worship to Jesus, who is the Word of God made flesh, because no one as she felt so vivid experience of God, because in your own bowels the Word became flesh.

The Virgin was offered on behalf of all mankind, the small pure womb where Jesus Christ embodies itself to take all the hands of men who work, all the hearts of those who love, all pain and suffering of those who suffer all human hopes and joys.

Nothing human is unknown to Jesus because He, made flesh, wanted to take all that means meat (except sin) in his dignity as Son of God.

That all this help us to reflect more and think about who is this Child born in Bethlehem, and instead of thinking so much on gifts, meals and parties at Christmas, they do not waste time and leave room for meditation , seek to save Christmas, oppose to desecrate our Christmas or that paganicen ...

Let's start appreciating this year with friendly spirit, and venerémosla in our family, our home. And if we have in our poverty, the better, because the smaller and poorer we are, the more we become like the flesh that Jesus took.

Let us bless the Lord, who wanted to become part of our lives to become flesh like us.

During this week, because of violence, wars and disasters in some parts of the world seems to be no place for joy, let us listen to St. Paul tells us: "Brethren, be always happy. Pray without ceasing, give thanks in everything, because this is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus. "

The true Catholic could not be desperate. If we lose a family member, if we lose our jobs, we can not mourn as those beings who have no hope ...

If on the nations have clouded the skies, we should not despair. Like the Israelites in Babylon, awaiting the hour of liberation. This "come because God is faithful," says St. Paul. And this joy must be like a prayer. "He who calls you is faithful and will fulfill its promise ...

Our faith will have a full meaning only when it is good news, especially for the poor, when Christians follow the steps in this path-inspiring, as he did.

What is a "difficult mission" ...?Sure it is!, As they do not know well to him who is bigger than us and is in our midst.

What is an "easy mission" ...?Sure it is!, When we know, believe, love and follow the one in our midst.

3. Questions to lead the reflection (*Read each item slowly, and leave a moment of silence after each question to allow our brothers and sisters to reflect*):

- a) Do I, like John, to affirm my identity always in reference to Jesus, or I often put myself in the middle of "my world" or, worse, want to be the center of the world of others?
- b) I do all my work under the shadow of humility, or love me too excel and receive praise?

c) How do these readings I can help my family be better prepared for the arrival of Christmas? Perhaps we can reflect together on humility, or think what we need to be completely happy ...

4. Comments

5. Concordances between the Holy Gospel and the Catechism of the Catholic Church

What Faith tells us 426-429 (Christ, the center of all Catechesis)720

426 At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father . . . who suffered and died for us and who now, after rising, is living with us forever."¹³ To catechize is "to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God's eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ's actions and words and of the signs worked by him."¹⁴ Catechesis aims at putting "people . . . in communion . . . with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.

427 In catechesis "Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God, . . . is taught—everything else is taught with reference to him—and it is Christ alone who teaches—anyone else teaches to the extent that he is Christ's spokesman, enabling Christ to teach with his lips. . . . Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: 'My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.'

428 Whoever is called "to teach Christ" must first seek "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus"; he must suffer "the loss of all things . . ." in order to "gain Christ and be found in him," and "to know him and the power of his resurrection, and [to] share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible [he] may attain the resurrection from the dead.

429 From this loving knowledge of Christ springs the desire to proclaim him, to "evangelize," and to lead others to the "yes" of faith in Jesus Christ. But at the same time the need to know this faith better makes itself felt. To this end, following the order of the Creed, Jesus' principal titles—"Christ," "Son of God," and "Lord" (*article 2*)—will be presented. The Creed next confesses the chief mysteries of his life—those of his Incarnation (*article 3*), Paschal mystery (*articles 4 and 5*), and glorification (*articles 6 and 7*).

Our response should be 1270, 537 (baptism , faith commitment)

1270 "Reborn as sons of God, [the baptized] must profess before men the faith they have received from God through the Church" and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the People of God.⁸⁰

537 Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and "walk in newness of life".²³⁸

Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him.²³⁹

Everything that happened to Christ lets us know that, after the bath of water, the Holy Spirit swoops down upon us from high heaven and that, adopted by the Father's voice, we become sons of God.²⁴⁰

6. Reflection with the Great Crusade CM 29 Jesus

22) How much harm you do to yourselves and to others. But if you do not understand that the

Baptist, though he was very great, was the smallest in the Kingdom of Heaven, at least you will believe that to act as Ambassador is much less than to act as Vicar. The one who acts for Me is superior to the one that who points Me out, is that not true? The rank of one of My vicars is truly higher than that of My beloved John, son of Elizabeth. John is the last man that gave the Old Testament and he is truly the first and foremost of all men in the kingdom of Israel.

7. Final Comments *Once again, the participants will be given time to speak briefly about the excerpts from the Catechism, the Great Crusade or any other topic of interest to the House of Prayer, the Apostolate or the Church in general*

8. Virtue of the Month: This month, we will practice the virtue of **Charity** (Canons 1822,1823,826,800)

This week, we will meditate upon Canon 1823 which textually says.

1823 Jesus makes charity the *new commandment*.⁹⁶ By loving his own "to the end,"⁹⁷ he makes manifest the Father's love which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive. Whence Jesus says: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love." And again: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."⁹⁸

And the Great Crusade tells us: CA 135

7) When My Father chooses a soul to give it the grace of being one of His chosen ones, on earth it is already destined to be like Me. And how should it be like Me? In love and acceptance of suffering. If in this you follow Me, My Father will recognize Me in you.

8) The chosen souls can try hard to save souls by praying fervently, practicing active and helpful charity, with meekness, humility, mortification, but above all, with the patient acceptance of suffering.

9. Weekly purposes

In relation to the Gospel:

I will act at all times thinking that among the people with whom I am, is Jesus, who wants me to recognize and love him without measure.

In relation to this month's virtue

I will do everything we can to make my life a blessing to all around me. Pay attention to my selfishness, not to make myself the center of my life.