

2ND WEEK OF ADVENT, December 6, 2015

“Prepare and make ready in a Spirit of Joy”

- Lorine Bourland, Vincentian Spiritual Moderator

READINGS:

Baruch 5: 1-9; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3,4-5,6 (3); Philippians 1:4-6,8-11; Luke 3: 1-6

The readings this Sunday call us to “Prepare the Way of the Lord, make straight his paths” but to do them with a spirit of Joy.

REFLECTION:

John the Baptist’s words echo in our ears every Advent. What have we done about his words? What are we going to do this year? We begin a new Church year, a great time for resolutions in our faith, to put into practice what we believe, a great time to wipe the slate clean with reconciliation. It is a time for us to pay attention to God who comes to us in the here and now. Advent is a wonderful time to make space and let God enter into us, in our lives, hearts and souls. We need to know God loves us, but it cannot stop there; we have been given such a wonderful gift of God’s love, and we have to share that gift with others. The word that kept popping out in the readings, even the responsorial psalm, was “Joy”. We must have the Joy of Christ in our hearts to pass on to others. I could not help but think about Fr. Gielow’s homily at the National Conference in New Orleans. It really made an impact on me. He talked about how we must have Joy in our lives and especially JOY as we approach our less fortunate brothers and sisters. It is with a spirit of Joy that we bring Christ to others. I especially liked his way of spelling the word JOY. J is for Jesus first, O is for others second and Y is for you last. St. Vincent de Paul called us to a life of relationship with Jesus. His first and foremost mission in life was a relationship with Jesus, second he administered to his beloved poor and only then did he minister to himself. It is by living out the Gospel message in Joy that we have the strength and the grace to go forward on our journey of life to help others know the love and kindness of God.

PRAYER:

Baruch is telling us “take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever...” This is a time for joy and anticipation, not for gloom and doom. St. Paul tells the Philippians, “I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you.” And in the Gospel, John the Baptist calls us to “Prepare the Way of the Lord, make straight his path.” Advent is a great time of preparation for us, but we must have the Joy of Christ in our hearts.

TRY THIS TODAY:

Try to help someone this Advent know that God loves them.