
HOMILY SUNDAY II ADVENT TIME YEAR A
THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS

Brothers and sisters... Advent always place before us faces that can guide our journey of faith... *The Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, the prophets, John the Baptist...*

Each one of them is an invitation to lift up our eyes... **to recognize them as present and alive today...** in people and situations around us...

Because, in the end... **That is what Advent is...** It is an invitation to look at the same reality as always, **but with new eyes...**

With those eyes that recognize that God's promises are still alive... **still speaking to the deepest desires of our hearts...**

Isaiah invites us to this... to be able to see life and future in a tree trunk **that seems already broken and dead...**

Isaiah calls us to challenge ourselves... to see beyond... And for that we need **to wake up... to Wake Up, to Convert, and to Prepare...**

To wake up... Because many times we walk on *automatic mode*... without stopping to see where our heart is going... To wake up is to allow God to make a small movement inside us... To open our eyes to something that was already there, but we were not seeing...

Advent always begins like this... with a gentle shake... with a light that turns on and invites us to recognize that God is already working, that something new wants to be born...

To convert... Because when we wake up, we discover that some paths no longer lead us to where we truly want to go... **Conversion is not perfection**, nor a sudden change of life... **It is turning our heart again toward what is true...**

It is returning to what is essential, letting go of what is heavy, healing what hurts... And **allowing God to straighten what has become twisted by fatigue or distraction...** The conversion of Advent is **aligning ourselves again with God's promises...**

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To prepare... Because what we're waiting for deserves **space, silence, and openness...**

To prepare is to care for the soil of the heart so that grace can find a place to fall... It is putting order in small things, reviewing our attitudes, opening ourselves to peace, asking for forgiveness and offering it... To prepare is to make room... so that when **He comes, He does not find a distracted heart, but a ready one...**

John the Baptist pushes us to return to the desert, inviting us to conversion... **A conversion that is demanding and courageous...**

John is strong, *especially with those who are hypocrites...* He asks for confession of sins, conversion, and baptism... In other words... **coherence of life, authenticity, simplicity, and a gaze turned toward God...**

His goal is to prepare the people so that they may be ready for the coming of the Messiah...

Today there are still many prophets *each one unique...* Who cry out for a better world... who want to awaken our sleeping consciences and invite us to build a fuller life... **a better society... a better community... where the values of the Kingdom are visible and believable... mercy, forgiveness, compassion...**

Advent my dear friends is a good time **to listen without judging, and to recognize God's language...**

The problem is that sometimes we feel uncomfortable when someone makes more noise than usual... *Leaving our comfort zone will always be a challenge...*

My dear brothers and sisters... Today I want to invite you to go into your inner desert and listen to that voice that cries out to you with love... wake up, prepare yourself, and be converted... This is the perfect time... The Kingdom of Heaven is near...

Here and now!

Fr. Moices Rafael C.