

We will celebrate with joy and songs of gladness.

Let us be strong, let us strengthen our hearts!

Let us proclaim what we are seeing and hearing!



What do we expect during this season of Advent as a Church Body, Congregation, Entity, Community, Daughters of Wisdom ?

- On this third Sunday, Isaiah tells us: **"Be strong, do not be afraid. Behold, your God is coming... the ransomed of the Lord will return... with songs of joy, immense joy on their faces, full of joy and gladness. Sorrow and affliction are left behind."**

But we ask ourselves: when will the day of joy and gladness come? When will the orphaned and hungry children in Gaza, who still today endure bombs, humiliation, and inclement weather, leave their sorrow and affliction behind? And what about the slow deaths of the Ukrainian people? And what about the Christian families and communities in Nigeria who are persecuted and killed for their faith in God? And the atrocities being committed in Sudan? And the ongoing riots and kidnappings in Haiti, and... when will the migrants rescued and/or deported from around the world, fleeing their lands because of war and famine, return? When, Lord, will the children and young people kidnapped by mafias to enrich themselves at the expense of their little bodies sing again with joy and immense happiness? When will there be immense joy on the faces of the Defenders of Life who continue to shed their blood in many places on our earth?

- An answer comes when we **CONTEMPLATE THE FACE OF THE SUFFERING CHRIST WHO CARRIES THESE CROSSES AND MANY MORE, and LISTEN** to what he says to his Mother when he turns his face toward her: "Behold, I am making all things new." (Scene from the film The Passion).

Perhaps we, as Daughters of Wisdom, are already collaborating in making "all things new" in our daily mission before the faces that cry out for our help.

We continue to listen, now, to the voice of Wisdom Incarnate: **"I bring justice to the oppressed, I give bread to the hungry, I free the captives, ... I straighten those who are bent over, I love the righteous, I support the widow and the orphan, I disrupt the path of the wicked...."**

She will also say to us: "O Daughters of Wisdom, continue to do good in your missions by helping the poor and vulnerable, with all your heart, with all your strength... continue to heal wounds... continue to RE-READ PAST AND PRESENT EVENTS IN THE LIGHT OF MY WISDOM, and discover that in the midst of the growing darkness of this world, my Light has always shone, that light which comes from on High, to enlighten those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death. This contemplative re-reading of MY constant PRESENCE in your lives, in your stories and in those of every human being, will give each of you the endurance and patience that the prophets of all times had, the endurance and hopeful patience that Montfort, Marie Louise, Catherine Brunet, and my other daughters, your predecessors, had.



- **Like John the Baptist**, who was not the Light, but the one who bore witness to the Light, let us continue with our eyes open to reality, our hearts on fire, our feet firm, and our gaze contemplative toward the One who has already come but whom we still await, for He must enter more fully into our hearts to give better witness to the Light.

Let us ask with all our hearts Mary, Our Lady of Wisdom, our faithful COMPANION IN WAITING, to strengthen our hearts so that with her we may humbly and confidently proclaim,



- that the Lord's mercy reaches his sons and daughters, no matter what.
- that humanitarian aid will reach those who are hungry for bread and solidarity
- that justice will be done to the poor who lack shelter, warmth, health, and fair wages...
- that the defenders of life in all its forms will receive the crown of saints for the sacrifice of their lives
- that the rich and owners of multinational corporations, the predators of nature, and those who corrupt children and adolescents will be dismissed empty-handed, unless they repent and return the dignity they have stolen
- May he help the many peoples currently in conflict, wipe away the tears from their suffering faces, for his mercy is eternal!

Let us remember that Advent is not only a time in the liturgical calendar, but also **the spiritual heartbeat of Christianity, a heartbeat of continuous love, of the hearts of the Daughters of Wisdom that vibrate with hope, standing tall, heads raised, following Montfort, Marie Louise, Catherine Brunet, and our predecessors**, whom we thank for trusting that the spiritual heartbeat they left us will remain alive in us and continue to impel us to share it so that all may have life in abundance.

Let us be patient and resilient, let us strengthen our hearts! Let us proclaim what we are seeing and hearing even when everything seems dark.



The joy of the coming God is that we live fully. Maranatha!



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