

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

My beloved brothers and sisters, I cannot tell you how many times I have heard people say to me: “I don’t think God cares about me; He never answers my prayers!” My beloved brothers and sisters, the truth is this: “God never stops thinking about us!”, if He did, we would cease to exist, because He holds us into existence by His willful love of the idea of who we are. God was so in love with this idea of us, that He brought the whole of the universe into existence just so that He could bring us into existence. The truth is that at the moment of our conception when our human life began, God was already present, infusing a completely unique, everlasting soul into this new human being. The Catechism teaches us: “Human life is sacred, because from its beginning, it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end.” Thus, even if that unique and special human being chose hell for all eternity at the end of their life, nonetheless, God still looks at them with His infinite Divine love. Thus every human life is sacred, from the very beginning of its existence, forever!

From that first moment of their creation, they were chosen by God, for a work that only that person could do. God has a dream and a mission for each one of us, and although each one of us can choose to reject this call and plan, it does not alter the fact that we have been chosen by God for His plan and for this mission!

This is what the Gospel for today makes very clear: The Blessed Virgin Mary has just been visited by the Angel Gabriel, and has been given her purpose and her mission. She has wholeheartedly embraced God’s plan, and in doing so, conceived Jesus in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. Immediately, she goes out to proclaim the Good News, to her cousin Elizabeth. She becomes the first Evangelist, and the most important of all of the Evangelists. Indeed, she witnesses to this when she responds to Elizabeths greeting by proclaiming: “My soul proclaims the Greatness of the Lord, and my Soul rejoices in God my savior...” The whole meaning of Mary’s life is in the fulfillment of the Divine Plan, His Divine promise to humanity. Even now, Mary is fulfilling this Divine Plan, she is even now crushing the head of Satan through the Son of God she has born.

Likewise, every single one of us has a key part in this Divine Plan. We too are called to be evangelists of the Good News, with Mary, and through Jesus, we too are called to be “crushers of the head of the deadly serpent”. We do this when we cooperate with Mary through Jesus by living our Baptismal Promises, praying the Rosary each day, attending to monthly Confession, receiving the Eucharist worthily, and living our lives in solidarity with Jesus and Mary.