

Our Lady of the New Advent and Our Lady of Guadalupe

I. Advent sets the tone, not just for the preparation for Christmas, but the tone for the entire year of Grace!

A. Isaiah articulates the feelings all of us have when dealing with our brokenness and sinfulness: a feeling of abandonment in the face of sin and selfishness. St. Paul also articulates the same feelings: “Woe is me! For I often do the things that I do not want to do!”

B. All of us acknowledge, at least at the deepest core of our lives, that we cannot overcome the reality of brokenness: like Israel, we are often unfaithful and fallen. We experience the deep need for our savior to come and definitively save us and set us free!

C. We look at the world around us, our society and even the Church, and we know that we are still living in a world fraught with darkness and sin, exploitation and violence.

D. Through the long history of Israel, as Isaiah articulates, Israel and we ourselves, are tired of the long, dark winter of our alienation. On the other hand, in the Advent Season, we acknowledge that God has never given up on us. Our God is always faithful to His people and to each of us. He has rescued us many times, and He has never abandoned us; and so we call upon Him as our redeemer. He has continually worked His wonders for us, and the greatest of wonder, was manifest to us in the Immaculate Conception we celebrat(ed yesterday) and the Incarnation we will celebrate in just a couple of weeks!

E. Our Advent is not a time of regret, it is a time of hope, in which we see the infinite mercy of our God on display in the creation of the Holy Mother of God, and the Incarnation of the Son of God! We are living the Advent at this very moment in time, and the Mercy of God is now made magnificently visible in Mary and Jesus! The Icon of Our Lady of the New Advent is a perpetual reminder to us, that the Mercy of God has come to dwell amongst, and the Holy Mother of God bears Him to us in her very being”; she declares: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!”. The Icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe declares to us that

the Glory we see in her, is our destiny, and we too are destined to be clothed with the Son of God, and Glorified by Him!

1. It is because of this Hope, that we strive to cooperate with the Divine Grace, the Divine Initiative, constantly struggling to give ourselves over to His Grace, in order to banish sin and selfishness and death from our lives!

2. Our Lady constantly announces to us: “He has come to set us free! He will come again in His Divine Glory to complete what He has begun! And My soul, and you too will rejoice in God our Savior!”

F. Our Lady reveals to us our proper disposition in this very troubled time in which we live: not gloom and distress, but hope that is already being realized! Jesus, Son of God and Savior shows us Himself in Her, whom she bears to us and makes visible to us. In her, we are already pressed to her heart, wherein we hear the Heartbeat of the Divine Love, and wherein she leads us to discover to see Him anew! What she says to Juan Diego, she says to us again and again: “Know for certain, my littlest of sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God through Whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near and far, the Master of heaven and earth....

I am your merciful Mother, The merciful Mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me. Here I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities and misfortunes.

Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the things that frighten you, the things that afflict you, is nothing: do not let it disturb you! Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more? Let nothing else worry you or disturb you!”