

Fourth Week of Advent

Our advent journey is almost reaching to its destination with the continuation of the fourth week of the season of Christmas, to celebrate the incarnation of God. And to complete this journey we have marched step by step preparing ourselves for the coming of our Redeemer. At the beginning of our advent journey we lighted the torch of **Hope**, and then in the second week we built the strong foundation of our **Faith**. In the third week we tried to experience the **Joy** of walking the path of our savior. And today we focus our attention on the **Love** of God. These virtues of Hope, Faith, Joy and Love are the guiding stars to meet the Messiah born in the poor manger on that Christmas eve.

Pope Francis beautifully expresses that, *“The most important thing that can happen to a person is to encounter Jesus: the encounter with Jesus who loves us, who has saved us, who gave his life for us. And to encounter Jesus, we are called to **Walk**”*.

In today's first reading, David reflects on his palace of cedar and compares it to the simple tent that houses the **Ark of the Covenant**, the symbol of God's presence among the people of Israel. He believes that the Ark certainly deserves a better place to reside in. Similarly, in the Gospel we hear the vocation of Mary, the announcement of the angel Gabriel, that she would bear a Son in her womb. Like King David, Mary too was preparing her womb for the **New Covenant** to be born and make it a dwelling place for God.

We Adorers are challenged today to look in to our charism and reflect, where have we built the house for God's dwelling? Have we found the tabernacles in the world like that of Micaela? Micaela recognized Jesus presence in the Marginalized women with their crushed dignity in the society. Have we found these women in our life today? To be lifted and given the dignified life like **WE** enjoy. We are privilege to be chained to the 'Blessed Sacrament' exposed in our homes. In adoration we experience the presence of the Divine Lord, and we are nourished spiritually by His Divine Strength. And this does not stop us in going out in search of the lost sheep. We step out to proclaim Christ to the broken world. As St. Paul in the second reading proclaims the Messiah fearlessly and boldly. We too are missioned to put the Christ redeeming words in actions. To make known the Lord to the marginalized, the ignorant and those who are not respected in the society.

This advent we are invited to look into our spirituality of the Eucharist, to share the broken bread to the broken pieces of Christ body in the world. As the daughters of St. Maria Micaela, we are called to be nourished spiritually by being physically available to our women, keeping our senses active in mission. Welcoming our women with the understanding, showing care and affection,

listening to their painful stories and making them feel dignified and respected and valued as a woman accompanied on the way of suffering.

Let this preparation of Christmas challenge us to 'Walk the Talk' and not just keep this treasure of God's word without bearing fruits. Like Mary we too are God's favored ones, invited to fulfill God's Promise. Let it happen to us what He has promised to us.

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