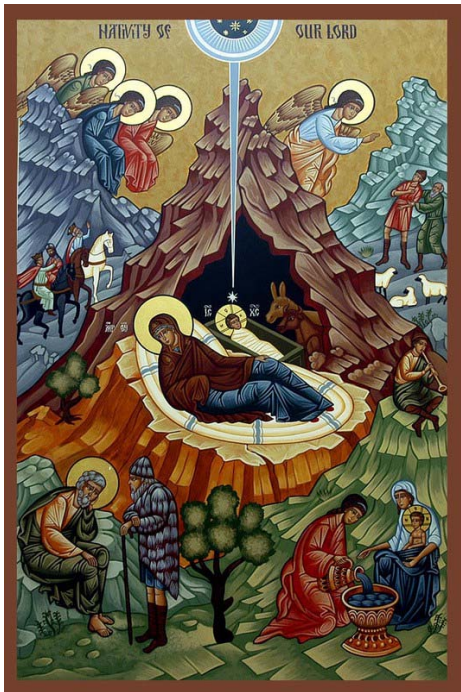


Dear Brothers and Sisters



The wonderful season of Advent gives us great joy. To think that the Lord comes, with majesty enrobed, with strength, with splendor; and he wants to take us to be with Him.

Advent reawakens within us the desire for the Lord to come soon. As St. Paul says, we shall not be divested of the body, but will be transformed. Suddenly, our body will be full of light, we will be transformed without passing through physical death. This has been revealed, it will thus be for the last generation. We will be taken up and become one with the Lord. We will be transformed in him.

For this reason, St. Paul, and all Christians, eagerly await the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We sing "Come Lord, Jesus!" or "Maranatha" in Aramaic.

St. Thomas Aquinas said that even the greatest happiness found on earth is nothing compared to the happiness that God has prepared for us. Happiness, because God is love. He gives himself unto death. God is totally

in love with us. The Song of Songs proclaims: "You have stolen my heart my sister bride," expressing the love which God has for every person.

The love of God respects even our freedom. It does not oblige or force us. In freedom the human person is capable of insulting God, of abominable deeds: murder, rape, enslaving prostitutes.

What has been the answer of God to all this?

He became man, and suffered, was crucified, died and was buried, he descended into hell...

The love of God is such that he himself partakes in suffering. Christ is crucified in the suffering of humanity. How can we not announce the Gospel to this generation?

Advent comes to reawaken our zeal.

The Father has created you out of love, because the divine essence in itself is to love you, to be God is to love you. The divine substance is to love you. God cannot stop loving you, he cannot stop being God, because 'Deus Caritas Est' God is love.

Advent announces to us: let us convert and believe in the Good News. God has sent his Son, Jesus Christ, who has died for your sins, he does not judge you, he wants only to be one with you now, through the grace of the Holy Spirit

Therefore, reconcile yourself with God who is love, let yourself be reconciled, let Christ offer for you his flesh, his body, to the Father, on the Cross. Let us be reconciled with him now. Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!

Fr. Sean