

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanius, Annas, Caiphas, John, Zechariah...nine names.

The Word of God is very specific, it is never anonymous, it is always addressed to a specific person, in a concrete historical situation. The Gospel we listen to today, the Second Sunday of Advent, makes this fact evident, beginning as it does with this list of names.

The 'Word of God' did not merely 'come to John the Baptist'. It did so having identified him in the context of a panorama of other people. Our lives also are linked to others. None of us are isolated individuals.

The Word addressed to John had consequences for all those who surrounded him: for some it would mean their salvation, for others condemnation.

'Repentance for the forgiveness of sins. This was the Word addressed to John, and the message he shared.

This Word, this message, is also addressed to us this Advent. 'Repentance and forgiveness of sins' is probably last on our bucket list of things to do as we prepare for Christmas.

How sad that we do not receive the graces from the Sacrament of Reconciliation more often. What disgrace that months and years pass by without our being healed? Yet this is how the Church invites us to make preparation for the coming of Christ.

We cannot go to confession of our own initiative, it is a gift of the Holy Spirit, but this gift can be desired.

A sincere confession has consequences not only for us, but for the panorama of people who come into contact with us. Our Advent Deanery Celebration of Reconciliation will be on Monday December 17th, 7:00pm at Our Lady of Mercy.

Tree decorated.... ✓

Christmas Shopping...✓

Repented and received forgiveness.... ✓

Fr. Sean