

REFLECT



December 2018

Our Hope is a person- it is the Lord

Promise



Hope

The liturgical calendar 2018 ends with the arrival of the Advent Season. We welcome Advent with four candles placed around a wreath. The Advent wreath's circular shape represents God's infinite love and is usually made of evergreen leaves which represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ. Four candles represent hope, faith, joy and peace.

The Advent Season is full of promises and hope which is proclaimed in the Book of Jeremiah, "Look, the days are coming, Yahweh declares, when I shall fulfill the promise of happiness I made to the House of Israel..." (Jer. 33:14). In our broken world God is speaking to us through the lips of Isaiah: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God" (40:1).

We are invited to be comforted by God so that in turn, we can be the messengers of hope and comfort. The UISG Plenary Assembly 2019 invites us to be "Sowers of Prophetic Hope" to the vulnerable by reflecting on the Word of God, "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says

the Lord, plans to give you a future full of hope" (Jer. 29:11).

Pope Francis reminds us that Advent is a time of hope. "Hope is not a concept, it is not a sentiment... it is not a heap of riches! Our hope is a Person, it is the Lord Jesus whom we recognize living and present in us and in our brothers and sisters." (Pope Francis - homily at 2nd Sunday of Advent 2017)

Advent is a time of inward journey, of reflection, waiting, watching in silence and contemplation. It invites us to let go of all that calls us away from knowing who Jesus is in our lives.

This season, filled with expectation and waiting, invites us to slow down and take time to truly listen. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by Mary who knows how to guide us, who knows of active waiting and watchfulness.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

May your light and love shine brightly in our hearts, spreading hope and peace to those around us as we journey towards your coming.

I wish you the blessing of a Holy Advent!

Sister Bimla Minj, OSU



Window in small chapel in St. Ursula Center
Blue Point.

*"Three things remain throughout our lives
Faith hope and Love, and the greatest of
these is love" 1Cor. 13:13*

*As we become more transparent,
suffused with the light of Heaven,
we become beacons of hope for
each other on Earth.*

*Alla Renée Bozarth
Postcards from Paradise*

The Parable of the Good Shepherd-(John 10, 27-30)

In this parable, Jesus told the people, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep... The sheep do nothing to earn the shepherd's love and concern. Do you believe that Jesus, the Incarnation of God, is always there for you, for me, for us without having to earn that love?"

The story of the good shepherd reminds me of a story from my childhood. I always walked my younger sister to school. When she was in kindergarten she would take my hand and hold it tightly as we crossed a big, busy street. She absolutely trusted me to keep her safe. She was confident that she would be alright.

In the same way, to follow Jesus Incarnate is to trust, to have confidence that he will always love me and always be there for me. If I live in union with Jesus, I live in union with the Father and according to Gospel Spirituality, with everyone else. I am filled with the same love that Jesus has for me and I have to live out of that love.

In closing this reflection on Jesus' unconditional love, I would like to quote a poem by Mary Oliver that speaks of the sun but its words can be applied to the Father's Son.

It is called "Why I Wake Early".

Hello, sun in my face.

*Hello, you who make the morning and
spread it over the fields
and into the faces of the tulips and the
nodding morning glories,
and into the windows of, even, the
miserable and the crotchety.*

*Best preacher that ever was, dear
star, that just happens to be
where you are in the universe
to keep us from ever-darkness, to ease us
with warm touching,
to hold us in the great hands of light—
good morning, good morning, good morning.
Watch, now, how I start the day
in happiness, in kindness.*

Sr. Catherine Talia, OSU
Reflection from the 2018
International Renewal Program

Renewing hope and dynamism in the Church

More than 300 participants gathered in Rome, including clerics and religious, as well as 49 auditors, among them 36 young people from five continents for the Synod of Bishops which focused on the themes of young people, the faith, and vocational discernment. Pope Francis began the **Synod on Young People** with a homily calling for the Holy Spirit to renew hope and dynamism in the Church. The Synod of Bishops took place from October 3-28.

For your reflections: selected Synod quotes:

- *Too often our hearts are too small. We must allow Christ to make our hearts larger.*
- *Humility is the stone on which vocation grows.*
- *Vocational discernment is a process that begins in the family and grows out into other communities.*
- *Not everything is individual; growth and change happen in a community.*
- *Young people want to see the face of Christ today; we have to show Jesus to them.*
- *Young people aren't here for the church; they are the church—the most beautiful and dynamic part of the church.*

America Magazine Nov. 8.

www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/synod-of-bishops/synod-2018/index.cfm Oct 3-18

The Angel with the Broken Wing

Once there was a little angel who had a broken wing. Because of this she was not able to do what angels usually did. She was not able to be a guardian angel as other angels were; she was not able to come to earth to deliver



special messages from God to his people. She was sad and wanted a special task which she could do. "I know what I will do," said the angel, "I will go to heaven and ask God what I should do."

It took the angel a long time to get to heaven as she could not fly well. When she finally arrived she was admitted into the heavenly court where God is. She explained to God that she wanted some mission, a job she would be able to accomplish. God patiently listened to her, then he told her she should go back to earth and look around. She would know the right task when she found it. The angel thanked God and dutifully went back to earth.

She went to schools and watched the children in the classrooms and at play. She went to churches, parks, museums, stores. Everywhere she saw other angels busy following others around. She was beginning to get worried that there was "no job available for her."

Just as she was about to go back to heaven in discouragement, she heard a cry. A little boy was sitting on the sidewalk holding his arm in pain. As she went to comfort him the ambulance arrived and together they went to the hospital. The angel waited with the

little boy and when he went for x-rays she was with him. She stayed with him when his arm was put in a cast.

Finally when the little boy was ready to go home she knew he would be fine. The little angel stayed in the hospital where she went around visiting the other patients. She said comforting words and touched them with kindness. Sometimes just being next to the person gave him or her strength.

Now she knew what she wanted to do. She wanted to comfort the sick. She went back to God and told him of her experiences. God thanked her for the good she had done and was pleased she had found a mission. God said to her, "Now you will need a name. Would you like to be called 'Comforter' or 'Kindness,' 'Hope,' 'Consoler,' 'Caregiver' or maybe you would like to be called 'Compassion.'" "Yes," said the angel, "I would like to be called 'The Angel of Compassion.'"

Now when you are sick or in the hospital look for the Angel of Compassion. Maybe she will say a kind word to you, or give you an encouraging smile, or touch you in a comforting way. And when you go to visit the sick remember by your words, smile, touch, care and concern you, too, can be an Angel of Compassion.

Sr. Margaret Golub, OSU

Gumla Bicentenary Celebration

I planted, Apollos watered but it was God who made the plant grow. (1Cor.3:6)

I find this statement of St. Paul to be very appropriate for us today, after 200 years of our foundation. Our venerated Founder, Rev. J.C.M. Lambertz saw 40 convents and 900 sisters at his death in 1869 at the age of 94 years. Having received a mandate from the Lord, he planted the tiny seed of

our Congregation with the help of three young dedicated women -Maria, Anna, and Catherina. He never would have thought or imagined his daughters going beyond Belgium or Europe to India, the United States, Canada, Africa and South America.

With our Fr. John Lambertz, all the pioneers watered the plant he planted lovingly in 1818. The tree has grown very large, sheltering hundreds of his daughters and thousands of children. We are enjoying the fruits of the plant cared for by our pioneers both in Belgium and India. Praise the Lord! Thanks be to Him! These are some of the sentiments that flashed through my mind as the Bicentenary was declared and as it progressed through the year.

After the inauguration of the Jubilee year in Belgium, our Provincial Sr. Maria Swarnlata Kujur enriched us by gifting each community with a statue of Our Lady of Dolours, an icon of Fr. Lambertz, the symbol of the Jubilee, the prayer and a rosary of 7 Dolours.

During the year, all the sisters made the "Lambertz's Retreat" led by our sisters based on their studies, and experiences. This added to the fervor of sisters. The participants were provided reading material for personal renewal to re-ignite the love of Fr. Lambertz. Each Sister was encouraged to express her love and appreciation of our founder and our congregation. There were original poems, songs, paintings and dramatizations of the life of our founder. The skill of Sisters in music composition was evident. The construction of the Lambertz's shrine filled us with enthusiasm. When the statues of Fr. Lambertz and Mother Mary arrived our excitement knew no bounds.

The shrine with red tiles, silver and blue lights is a lasting memorial of the Bicentennial.

The celebration continued for three days in a grand style. The sisters from the entire Gumla Province were invited with a certain number of students. Each house and each department contributed to an Exhibition displaying annals, achievements and contributions to the Congregation as well as cultural programmes from different schools.

The climax of the whole closing ceremony was the solemn Eucharistic celebration offered by our very Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul A. Lakra D.D. Bishop of Gumla diocese and Rt. Rev. Anand Jojo D.D, Bishop of Hazaribagh diocese. Bishop Lakra summarized the origins of the congregation 200 years ago as a tiny plant now grown and spread in five countries. It is spreading the charism and spirit of St. Angela Merici and Fr. John Lambertz throughout the world. It was very valuable in raising the standard of the down trodden women of that time and spreading education. In Jharkhand, we have witnessed the change brought about by the education of women in different fields especially in health and social care. We would not be able to imagine the mission of Fr. Constant Lievens S.J. without the presence and contribution of Ursulines. We are proud that Jharkhand is second in women's education in the country. It is a matter of pride that a Tribal daughter of Jharkhand is the Superior General of the Congregation.

Sr. Maria Kujur informed us that on June 1, we will have a new house in Muzaffarpur Diocese (Samastipur). Thus we will be working under 21 Bishops.

After the Eucharist, the guests were escorted to the shamiana, an Indian ceremonial tent and stage by the 'Painki' a tribal cultural dance by students from Samtoli. Among the benefactors honored were Fr. Emmanuel Baxla, S.J. who translated our Constitutions in Hindi and Sr. Kumudini Soy O.S.U for the cassette of Bicentenary hymns and Bhajans.

Adapted from article by Sr. Agnes Lugun, OSU

A Prayer for the UN COP24 Climate Summit Our (Katowice, Poland 3-14 December)

Leader: Let us pray as Pope Francis taught us in Laudato si':

Creator God, please guide us. Help us act in love and courage to honor You, O Creator, and to fulfill our role as protectors of the Earth, our common home. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Amen.



Create Holy Places

Pope Francis is often called a "man of Vatican II." In his newly-released *Gaudete et*

Exsultate, he offers a powerful magisterial reflection on the Council's "universal call to holiness": Francis underlines the reality of sanctity as a journey.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2019