

FRATERNITY OF FATHERHOOD



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A SPIRITUAL FRATERNITY
FOR ALL MEN



Fr. Santan Pinto
SOLT
Founder of The Fraternity
of Fatherhood

Advent Blessing—Waiting on Purpose

May this Advent season teach you to wait—not with frustration, but with faith and courage.

May you learn that waiting is allowing God to quietly prepare your heart for the blessings He already has in motion.

May your waiting strengthen your trust, steady your courage, and deepen your hope.

May you come to believe that God is working in you shaping your character, guiding your steps, and drawing you closer to who you were created to be.

May you wait on purpose—with patience, prayer, and confidence— knowing that God's timing is always perfect and His promises are always faithful.

And as you wait for the coming of Christ this Advent, may your heart be open to receive Him—
not just as a child in a manger,
but as the Savior who walks with you each day
and leads you forward with peace.

May the Lord bless your waiting,
fill your hearts with expectant hope,
and remind you that you are never waiting alone.

And may the God who keeps His promises bless you,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Deacon Ray Emnace

Advent is Not an “Idle Wait”

Reflection by Brendan McVicker

I have always loved Advent ever since I was a young child.....

I remember when my Mom would put up the Advent Wreath at our dinner table and the instant anticipation and feeling “oh man, Christmas is coming and I can’t wait”. It always seemed to be the longest four weeks of the year. Then we would finally hit week three with the “rose” colored candle , and a hope would ignite that we are almost there. Things at home started happening. Back then it wasn’t until at least the beginning of this third week that my Dad starting getting the Christmas tree and we would put up the Nativity Set, but only after my Mom cleaned the bay window. I would go crazy because my Dad would always let the tree sit in the garage for a few days to “Fall” whatever that means.... to this day, I’m still not sure. And my Mom would cut greens and they would sit in the garage because the mantel still had to be cleared and dusted before it could be decorated. ...continued on page 2



... continued Advent is Not an “Idle Wait”

By this point I was pretty much going crazy. Every other house on the block already had their tree for two weeks and house completely decorated. Finally, as we were into week three of Advent everything was coming together. The tree finally “fell” and we got to move it into the house. Dad was putting lights on the tree and Mom had the mantel decorated beautifully. The bay window was clean and the Nativity set was up.

Ok, I admit it was a little frustrating for me and I did not like waiting forever to get on with the holiday’s.

This process was a little slow for me as a kid.

I didn’t realize it at the time, but as I look back now as an adult, I learned so much. All the actions my parents did in



preparation for Christmas were planned events. My parents prepared for Christmas in Advent. The daily tasks were planned and on purpose, but did not “rush it”. Constant rush and distractions just turns Advent into frustration and the worldly version of another Christmas countdown. Yes, Advent is a time of waiting, but not an Idle wait. Advent wakens our soul, pulls us out of spiritual inactivity. There is preparation in this waiting for Christmas whether it be dusting a mantle, cleaning windows, family dinner prayer around the Advent wreath, etc.. And of course my parents making sure we got to the Advent Reconciliation Service. **Advent is a combination of a penitential season intertwined with tremendous time of hope as we wait for the birth of the Christ child. It teaches that waiting in anticipation can be joyful, exciting and very much a time of active preparation.** Advent is not about sitting and idle waiting. The world tries to pull us in its direction of you have to get this done and get that done right now. But the Church teaches us that Advent is “transforming waiting from frustration into a source of grace and spiritual growth”.

PREPARING THE WAY: RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

Do not fear.
Is 41:10



"There are people who are afraid to go to confession, forgetting that they will not encounter a severe judge there, but the immensely merciful Father"

POPE FRANCIS

St. Paul defined Advent pretty well:

“For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:13-14)

So how do we step back from all the glitter and busyness of the world and incorporate Advent into our lives as a real penitential season and also one of tremendous hope and joy as we prepare for Christmas?

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... continued Advent is Not an “Idle Wait”

First, don't forget increased spiritual practices, and prayer. Add to your prayer life what you can. Start small if you need to. It doesn't have to be overwhelming; something small and meaningful. Maybe the Gospel reading for the day. Attend the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist. Allow Him to enter and transform every part of our lives. Engage in the symbols for the season by lighting advent wreaths or maybe setting up a nativity set and reflecting a few minutes each day on Mary and Joseph as they wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus. And one of the greatest ways to ignite hope in our hearts is to remember others. It doesn't have to be complicated, but very simple. I love this excerpt from Fr. Pinto's Christmas letter in 2010. A great message for us in how being simple can be so powerful in our preparation to celebrate Christmas... kindness, generosity, goodness, friendship, and care of others:

“He could have come to you in many ways but chose to come to us as a little child. He guides us to be like little children if we want to enter into the Kingdom of God! He speaks of the Kingdom of God being like a Mustard seed. This is so tiny but when it grows it becomes a large tree. The world keeps reminding us what greatness is and how everything that is large, big, powerful is noticed, admired and desired. As we sit at the feet of the New born Child Jesus, we learn that for God it is the little things, that we can easily offer, are noticed. We often wait to offer something to God and end up offering nothing because nothing that we have is good enough for God. This is what we think and how our thinking is faulty. God places in our lives, in His providence and love, little things.



These are the little sacrifices, tokens of love, kindness, generosity, goodness, friendship, and care that we can offer to God and our neighbors. During this Christmas make an effort to share the joy and peace of the Child Jesus by reaching out to as many as you can by wishing them a Happy Christmas...It is not necessary that you give big gifts but that wrapped in the little gifts is your love, care and your friendship. You see a little note written in your own hand, wrapped in a little gift means much more than some large gift that leaves no room for little notes of love and care.”

A blessed Advent & Merry Christmas to you all.

Advent Reflection— “Learning How to Wait”

Reflection by Dcn. Ray Emnace

Advent is one of the most important seasons of the Church year, and at the same time one of the hardest for people your age to really understand—because Advent is about waiting. And let’s be honest: none of us really likes to wait anymore. We live in a world of instant results. Food is instant. Answers are instant. Messages are instant. If something loads for more than five seconds, we think something is wrong. But Advent tells us something very different:

The most important things in life cannot be rushed.

Advent is the season where the Church teaches us how to wait—Advent teaches us how to wait on purpose. Waiting means **preparing your heart for something real**. That’s exactly what Mary did. She waited in trust. She carried Jesus quietly, patiently, faithfully—long before the world ever saw Him. That’s what Advent asks of us too! Not to just decorate our houses or buy presents— but to let God quietly grow something new inside your hearts.

Here’s the truth:

God works in hearts before He works in circumstances.

A lot of you are waiting right now—whether you realize it or not. Some of you are waiting to figure out who you are. Some are waiting for confidence. Some are waiting to feel loved, accepted, or understood. Some are waiting for hope to come back after a tough year. And some are waiting for answers to prayers you’ve been praying silently for a long time. Advent teaches us that **waiting is not wasting time—waiting is becoming ready**.

Every day you wait with faith, God is shaping your character: He builds patience. He strengthens courage. He softens hearts.

He teaches you to trust Him when you can’t see the outcome yet. That’s what young people today need to hear. You don’t have to have life figured out right now.

God never rushed Mary.

God never rushed Joseph.

God never rushed His plan.

He won’t rush you either.

He’s far more patient with you than you are with yourself.

**WAITING IS NOT
WASTING
TIME...WAITING
IS BECOMING
READY.**

Advent reminds us that **Jesus came into a messy world, not a perfect one**—and He still chose to come. He was born into uncertainty. Into confusion. Into struggle. Jesus chose that kind of setting so you would know: You don’t have to fix your whole life before God shows up.

God comes right into the middle of your real life.

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... continued Advent Reflection— “Learning How to Wait”

Not when everything is perfect. Not once you have all the answers. Right now—exactly where you are.

So what does Advent mean for you?

It means slowing down enough to pray—even when your schedule is full. It means choosing kindness—in a culture that often rewards cruelty or sarcasm. It means letting God speak—when your phone never stops talking. Advent means preparing your heart so when Christmas comes, you’re not just celebrating gifts under a tree... You’re welcoming Jesus into your life again with intention.

Because here’s the honest truth:

Jesus isn’t just a memory from history. He’s a living presence who still comes to meet you today.

Advent teaches you to make room for Him—not only in December, but in your everyday life. And the most powerful thing you can do this Advent is very simple: **Show up for God daily—even for just a moment.**

One quiet prayer.

One honest conversation with Him.

One decision to trust when you’d rather give up.

Those small moments prepare your heart to receive the greatest gift of all:

Not presents.

Not a break from school.

Not time off.

But Christ Himself—who came to bring light to dark places,

hope to tired hearts,

and peace to lives that feel uncertain.

So as you walk through Advent this year,

don’t rush past the waiting.

Lean into it.

Because what you’re waiting for is not just

Christmas...

You’re waiting for Jesus—and He is already walking toward you.



Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and he guides us spiritually. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Dcn. Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

**We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage
of St. Joseph.**



**St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.
Feast Day March 19th**



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