

The Discipleship and the World

The Coming of the Lord

As we have mentioned in last month issue Pope Benedict XVI described our journey of faith as “a pilgrimage on the deserts” -- we are traveling through a secular world deprived of God and faith. The “deserts” are keeping the disciples constantly thirsty, yearning for God’s presence and His coming. In this month, as our journey is approaching the sacred time of Advent and Christmas, the Church is leading the faithful into a special solemn period that is marked with waiting, conversion and hope.

There was a long period of waiting preceding the birth of our Savior which God sustained with prophets. “In the old days God spoke through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.” (Heb 1:1-2) Through the prophets “God forms his people in the hope of salvation, in the expectation of a new and everlasting Covenant intended for all, to be written on their hearts.” (CCC #64) Through his only Son God revealed his face to us: God is love, and he came with a distinctive identity and mission: He is the Word became flesh; He came to save by reconciling us with God; by helping us know God’s love; by being the model of holiness; by making us partakers of the communion with God. Today we wait, like the first Christians, for the first, humble coming of the Lord. We also wait patiently for His second coming in glory and judgment.

During the waiting we repent and strive for the conversion to prepare for His coming as we hear John the Baptist calling: “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt 3:2). We participate in the sacrament of Penance. We are more conscious of doing the charity work to take care of the elderly, the poor, the weak and the marginalized, bearing in mind that Christ came to be in solidarity with the poor: the Son of God who “was rich but became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty” (2Cor 8:9).

We hope, like the first Christians who encountered the Risen Lord, with confidence that salvation has been accomplished by Christ and the grace has been brought into the world through Christ. The fruits of salvation will mature and reach their fullness. The messianic joy and peace that humanity has been waiting for has arrived, for He is the “Prince of Peace (Is 9:5). The future is bright for those who believe in Him, for He has reconnected the broken link with God and He will come again in glory and judgment.

Christmas Begins with Jesus

10 Things you Can Do to Keep Christ in Christmas

1. Send Christmas cards/e-cards with spiritual messages and/or the nativity scene.
2. Invite a non-Catholic friend to attend midnight mass with you.
3. Send a compliment email to businesses that put "Christmas" greetings in their stores to tell them how much you appreciate them keeping "Christmas" in their stores.
4. Say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays". If you are worried you may offend someone, say both greetings.
5. If you have a party at your house, invite your guests to watch a Christmas-themed DVD with you, e.g. The Nativity Story.
6. Play Christmas music that has a religious message, e.g. Silent Night, Joy to the World, instead of secular ones.
7. Plan a project of good will, e.g. adopt a family or volunteer at a food bank, and invite your colleagues and friends to join you. Tell them you do this because it is "Christmas".
8. Write "Christmas" instead of "X'mas" to clearly show there is "Christ" in "Christmas".
9. Prepare yourself for Christmas during Advent. Go to confession before Christmas.
10. Set up a nativity scene in your home and decorate your Christmas tree with religious decorations, such as angels and stars.



Time Bank

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- Credits can be redeemed for services from members
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Please visit our EV Web page:

1. Go to church web site at www.transfigurationnyc.org
2. Click 'Evangelization Group' under the pull down menu 'Parish Life'.

門徒與世俗生活 - 基督的來臨

上一期提到教宗本篤十六世稱現代信徒的生活為「在現世沙漠中朝聖」，現今世界正摒棄天主及信仰。這「沙漠」令門徒們時常保持對天主的渴求，渴望天主的臨在和祂的來臨。在這個月，我們信仰的旅程將會接近將臨期和聖誕節這些神聖的時間，教會正提醒我們要在這時期中注意在信仰上對上主的等待、皈依和盼望。

由天主啓示給先知到救世主真正的來臨，是經過很長時間的等待的。「天主在古時，曾多次並以多種方式，藉著先知對我們的祖先說過話；但在這末期內，祂藉著自己的兒子對我們說了話。」（希 1:1-2）「天主透過先知們培養自己的子民去渴望救恩，期待那賦予眾人及刻在人內心的新而永久的盟約。」（天主教教理第64條）透過聖子我們認識天主：天主是愛，聖子的降生有祂特殊的身份和使命：祂滿全了天主的話語；祂拯救世人使世人和天主和好；教我們認識天主對世人的愛；為我們立聖善的榜樣；使我們透過聖體聖事與天主共融。今天我們一起等待，就好像宗徒們一樣，基督屈尊就卑的降臨。我們也耐心等候著祂在光榮中的第二次來臨和祂的審判。

在這等待的時間中，我們要悔改和努力地轉化自己去迎接基督的來臨，正如洗者若翰的召叫：「你們悔改吧！因為天國臨近了。」（瑪 3:2）我們應該

多作補贖，參與慈善工作去照顧老弱、貧窮和被排斥的人，要記著基督是來救助貧困的：聖子「本是富有的，為了你們卻成了貧困的，好使你們因著祂的貧困而成爲富有的。」（格後 8:9）

我們希望能像宗徒們般能和復活的基督相遇，深信基督帶給我們救贖，藉著祂世界充滿天主的恩寵和慈愛。救恩的果實將會成熟和完滿。人類等待已久默西亞的喜樂和平安已經來臨，因為祂是「和平之王」。（依 9:5）信賴基督的人未來是光明的，因為基督重新使我們和天主連繫一起，而祂將在光榮中再次來臨作最後的審判。



請瀏覽我們的福傳網頁：

1. 請先前往聖堂網站：
www.transfigurationnyc.org
2. 選擇中文
3. 在“堂區生活”的下拉目錄中點擊“福傳小組”。

耶穌降世，聖誕真諦

宣揚聖誕十大行動



1. 給親友送上有宗教訊息或有耶穌誕生故事的聖誕咭。
2. 邀請一位非天主教的朋友與你一同參與子夜彌撒。
3. 給在店裡或廣告中用上"Christmas"賀詞的商戶寄一封電郵，表達謝意，以鼓勵他們以後繼續在店舖內宣揚聖誕的訊息。
4. 跟人說 "Merry Christmas" 而非 "Happy Holidays"。若你擔心會冒犯有別人，可以同時用上兩句賀詞。禮多人不怪嘛！
5. 在家中舉行聖誕派對時，可邀請來賓一同欣賞以耶穌誕生故事作為主題的電影，例如：The Nativity Story。
6. 盡量多些播放具宗教訊息的聖誕歌如《平安夜》、《普世歡騰》等，而非一般聖誕歌曲。
7. 策劃一次有意義的活動，如給有需要的家庭送上禮物、在食物調濟庫當義工等，並邀請你的同事及朋友一起參加，向他們解釋活動的目的是要在聖誕臨近時多做善事。
8. 習慣寫 "Christmas" 而非 "X'mas"，讓人更清楚見到基督才是聖誕的中心。
9. 在將臨期辦妥修和聖事，為迎接聖誕作好心靈上的準備。
10. 在家中佈置一個馬槽，亦可在聖誕樹掛上具宗教意味的裝飾，如天使、星星等。



葉麗儀首張個人信仰音樂專輯

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- 以積分換取所需的服務。
- 享有購物優惠。

歡迎各教友善用天主賞賜的各種恩寵和才能去服務社區，以行動來回應天主的召叫。

報名表格可於聖堂後面的接待處索取。