



School Sisters of Notre Dame

ADVENT WEEK 3

DECEMBER 17, 2017

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER—A call to intimacy with God

Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) PROSLOGION
(adapted for inclusive language)

“Come now, insignificant [one], leave behind for a time your preoccupations; seclude yourself for a while from your disquieting thoughts. Turn aside now from heavy cares and disregard your wearisome tasks. Attend for a while to God and rest for a time in [God].

Enter the inner chamber of your mind; shut out all else except God and whatever is of aid to you in seeking [God]; after closing the chamber door, think upon your God. Speak now, my whole heart; speak now to God: I seek Your countenance; Your countenance, O Lord, do I seek. So come now, Lord my God, teach my heart where and how to seek You, where and how to find You.

If You are not here, Lord where shall I seek You in Your absence? But if You are everywhere, why do I not behold You in Your presence? Surely You dwell in light inaccessible. Yet, where is this inaccessible light? Or how shall I approach unto a light inaccessible? Or who will lead me to and into this light so that in it I may behold You?

REFLECTION

The readings for this week’s reflection are chosen to give us a wake-up call. They invite us, after two weeks of attempting a preparation for the Christ to make straight our lives, to enter into a deeper introspection. Why are we taking precious time to be quiet when activity and responsibilities rustle outside the closed door as suggested in the first week *Proslogium* reading? A short answer is, we are called daily, in the spirit of the *Ignatian Examen*, to review our lives. Do our activities correspond to our purpose? Do they have a common denominator with the events in the life of John the Baptist? . . . with the events in the life of Jesus who was sent as Envoy and Extension of the Godhead? Surely our times urge us to bring glad tidings to the

brokenhearted; surely now, more than last year, we need to hear that a year of favor from the Lord is overdue and coming soon, perhaps next year.

Even the earth, as much as we have abused it and taken it for granted, fulfills its purpose, to bring forth plants that blossom into tomatoes and apples. Just a little help from the air, sun and water and vegetation fulfills its purpose. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin gives us the ultimate reason of our purpose, our existence, in his text, *The Phenomenon of Man*. “Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God, the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.”

Advent and Christmas are about our calling to evaluate how we are harnessing for God, the energies of love.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. As we emerge from the door of our meditation room, do we have a sensual longing for friendship, for communion with others who will call us to a larger vision?
2. How has our spirituality and consciousness advanced within the past year? Can we, like John in his transparency and like Mary in her Magnificat, direct credit to another, to our Creator, our mentors, for gifts others see in us?
3. Talk to God about a “Christmas list” of spiritual gifts that you would hope to acquire in the coming year that would also benefit others.

Third Sunday of Advent Lectionary: 8

READING 1 [IS 61:1-2A, 10-11](http://www.usccb.org/bible/isaiah/61:1)
(<http://www.usccb.org/bible/isaiah/61:1>)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives

Reflection prepared by Sister Carolyn Sur, SSND

and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.
As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

Song Suggestion: *Come Lord, Maranatha!* by Ricky Manalo, CSP:
<https://youtu.be/sOGE1Z15tP8>

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: [LK 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54](http://www.usccb.org/bible/luke/1:46)
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/luke/1:46>

READING 2 [1 THES 5:16-24](http://www.usccb.org/bible/1thessalonians/5:16)
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/1thessalonians/5:16>

GOSPEL [JN 1:6-8, 19-28](http://www.usccb.org/bible/john/1:6)
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/john/1:6>