



Cavanis Lay Fraternity
Sacred Heart House, CAVANIS INSTITUTE
Via Col Draga - POSSAGNO (TV)
INVISIBLE MONASTERY 02.12.2020

Beloved,

While I write these lines I have before my eyes the readings of the first SUNDAY OF Advent, which is already near, the liturgical year is reenactment and actualization (that's to say memory and presence) of the entire history of salvation already carried out and it is, in the same time, promise and anticipation of the history of salvation that has yet to be fulfilled.

Each time, or liturgical cycle, brings to life a particular phase of that history; they are, so to say, the seasons of the liturgical year; among them, Advent represents spring, a season of expectation and promise. The readings of this first Sunday allow us to discover what Advent is in its deepest reality: an intertwining of memory, presence and expectation.

Memory and expectation alternate in the passionate prayer of Isaiah, in the first reading: *"You, o Lord, are our father, our redeemer from of old is your name ... When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down and the mountains quaked at your presence ... Now, you are angry because we have sinned ... We have all become as an unclean thing ... Return for the sake of your servants..."* Remembering the goodness of God makes us discover the sadness of the present situation, but also leads us to hope, for the future, in a new intervention of God.

The theme of the expectation also resounds in the Gospel passage from which Jesus makes us reach that demanding and solemn word which fills the whole of Advent with itself: *Keep watch!* It is a word that makes us disciples as many sentinels; better - as Jesus himself expresses it - as many doorkeepers. "It's like someone who has gone on a trip and has ordered the doorkeeper to watch".

This parable of the doorman seems to be the core of this Sunday's Gospel narrative: the doorman lives in awaiting the return of the owner of which he is unaware of the date but towards which he is oriented. Paul also speaks to us of expectation in the second reading, but this condition appears nourished by the strong perception of his

presence: “so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ ... God is faithful, by him you were called to communion with his Son Jesus Christ”.

The Christian, therefore, no longer lives only **in expectation** of Christ, but also **in communion** with Christ, that is in possession (it's also in the dimension of faith) of what he awaits (that constitutes the object of his hope). This reality, which constitutes Advent, it is well synthesized, even in the brief text of Paul, in a word that, in these few lines, occurs three times: **grace**. And the grace well represents the important character of the spiritual climate of this time in which the liturgy and the Word lead us to discover the extraordinary gratuitousness of God's initiative.

I invite you, friends, to wear this spiritual habit to be, as **FLC** (Cavanis Lay Fraternity), witnesses of the grace that God has given us, anxiously waiting for him to also visit this history of ours.

From the Gospel according to Saint Mark (Mk13, 33-37)

During that time, Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful; keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

From the unpublished writings of Father Antonio Cavanis:

Prayer reminds us of God, reminds us of the idea of his greatness, and of our dependence on him, of his goodness and of our needs. In prayer we profess the Faith, we revive Hope, we rekindle charity, we express humility, and we get excited about penance. Prayer makes us practice the virtues while it begs to achieve them. You don't know how to pray? Prayer is not an art, it is a feeling. It does not require talent, the will is enough. It does not ask for knowledge, but supposes the Faith. It's not a science found in books. The book in which there is the rule of prayer is our heart.

(AICV, b, 14, GO, p200)



Prayer attributed by tradition to the Venerable Father Mark Cavanis

Beloved Mother Mary, turn your eyes of mercy toward us sinners and moved to compassion for our worries and difficulties, pray your son to help us with his grace so that we may generously cooperate for our own and other people's sanctification.

Beloved Mother Mary, do not look at our unworthiness, but rather on your most gentle maternal love, and implore for us the great grace to see our devout Congregation grow up with renewed strength, to the greater glory of God and the salvation of many helpless young people.

Beloved Mother Mary, you who are so terrible against evil repress with your power the dreadful slaughter the devil is doing of poor children lacking in education and support by your great protection the efforts we make to gather them, watch over them and lead them to our heavenly home.