

Jesus will be born of Mary, wife of Joseph, son of David



*“You heavens above, rain down my righteousness;
let the clouds shower it down.
Let the earth open wide,
let salvation spring up” (Is. 45, 8).*

This Sunday before Christmas, the fourth candle of the Advent Crown is lit. Let us look at what is happening, and leave the past behind. The Fourth Sunday of Advent wants to highlight the value of the Word, which enters the life of concrete people and places. The Angel appears to Mary, engaged to a man named Joseph, from the house of David. The place is Nazareth, a small town in Galilee. The Word of God transforms, the Saviour transforms life. God's messenger bursts into Mary's daily life, enters her home and greets her, by saying, "Rejoice, full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"

“Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed. The Child who lies in the manger has the face of our brothers and sisters most in need, of the poor who are “a privileged part of this mystery; often they are the first to recognize God’s presence in our midst”. May the Virgin Mary help us so that, as we approach Christmas, let us not allow ourselves to be distracted by external things, but make room in our hearts for the One Who has already come and Who wishes to come again to heal our illnesses and to give us His joy.

Pope Francis, Angelus, 15 December 2019

Dear friends of the ACI Family, dear Sisters,

The last candle of the crown is the symbol that the wait is coming to an end; the Lord is very close and brings joy and peace. Let us pray together with Mary, who is the "House of Light", and ask for the grace we need to welcome the Child Jesus with love and humility. May Mary be the one who reminds us that "... the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14).

With blessings,

Claudia Iwanica, Isabel Branco, Juan Jairo Lavarde, Vanessa Amarelle,
Sr. Janet Andrade, Sr. Pilar Guzmán, Sr. Belen Escauriaza
International Commission of the ACI Family