

Fr. Romeo Homily
Homily December 2, 2018

It is but natural for us to wait for special events in the lives of our loved ones. And if by any chance we forget, we try to remedy our negligence by making what is called a “Belated Greeting” – belated Happy Birthday, belated Happy Anniversary, belated Merry Christmas....But though it is sweet, a “belated greeting” is somewhat embarrassing to make. It means that we have forgotten our love one on the exact date of his or her celebration.

We have begun our Advent journey and the Lord reminds us that he prefers not a “belated” but an “advanced” approach to life. Yes, we make “advanced” remembrances too, so that we will not forget. We make it also to show how excited we are and how much we anticipate any special event. In my experience, people are generally appreciative if we wait with them, anticipate with them their special celebration.

Jesus calls us this Advent to be advanced in our preparation for his coming. And this coming is certainly not the historical coming of 2,000 years ago, which is unrepeatable. Take note of the Gospel, speaking not of the birth, but of the second coming of Jesus at the end of time. Jesus will come again, this time, not in a manger, but in glory—amidst the clouds and in great power.

This is an essential part of our faith—“he will come again to judge the living and the dead” (Apostles Creed).

When will this coming occur? How will it happen? To these questions, we do not have answers. We cannot manipulate the timetable of the Lord. And so, the Lord encourages us to do something positive. We are to wait for his coming—not a passive waiting, but an impassioned, creative, active waiting. The season of Advent, our waiting for Christmas, is an exercise in this waiting. It is a waiting of the heart.

Many of us have a problem with waiting because it is certainly not an easy task to wait. And we are not trained to wait. We are trained to satisfy our needs and desires immediately. If we are told to wait, it becomes an immense ordeal, almost like the waiting of a penalized prisoner for his unknown time of release. But how do we make our waiting special and meaningful?

John Henry Cardinal Newman said in one of his sermons: We are not simply to wait, but to watch; not simply to believe, but to watch; not simply to love, but to watch. To watch—that is a remarkable work—to watch for the coming of the Lord. Waiting and watching means being so full of joyful anticipation that we prepare so much for the coming of someone dear to us.

We have Advent so that we may not forget the Day of the Lord. As we wait for his coming, let us also watch, be alert, alive, and active so that we may truly rejoice when he draws near. Let us make advanced preparations for Jesus – to grow always in Love.