



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BROTHER  
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY

DIOCESI DI BERGAMO

# GOD THAT COME

Here is a new advent in the year of your church, my God the prayers of longing and expectation we project out from the heart, songs of hope and promise. And pain and nostalgia thickens and faithful expectation still in prayer: "Come!"

Strange prayer. You have already come between us and have established your tent, you have trade up your life with us, in a simple joy, for a long solitary and bitter end. How could we invite you more within ourselves "Come"? By your at this advent, you are near to us and that you have much entered in our poor world, that almost we did not recognized you in among our brethren. O God, you called the Son of Man. And everything was done and Yet we pray: "Come". this prayer there rises from the heart, as a time of the patriarchs, How blessed are the kings and seers who had seen from a far at day of your birth. So..Is it worthy that we celebrate the advent? Is the advent is always true? Is it true that there is an advent? Is it true that have already come? with You, is this that you want us to long for your coming.. when we call on Him to come. The mighty God, the eternal Father, the prince of peace light and truth and the eternal blessed. On the first page of the Holy Scripture was already written the promised of your coming, and in your last testament no one can ever been told, and now we are still praying: "Come, Lord Jesus. "

KARL RAHNER

# THE WISH OF THE BISHOP

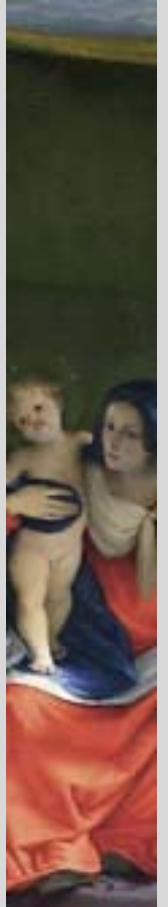
DEAR FRIENDS,

In all this Advent season the Church announces the **birth** of Jesus, the birth of the **BROTHER**.

It always surprises me that the Lord reveals **his face**, the most intimate and mysterious, uses these words: husband, father, mother, brother, son... They are names that identify the roles in a **FAMILY**, that renders it such. The Lord looks at our families and tells us, "Behold, in all creation I see myself in you as in no other creature, as in no other relationship." And if on the one hand the mystery is almost revealed, on the other hand we left amazed: how can the Most High make Himself **so small**? How great is **THE DREAM OF LOVE** that He entrusts us every day and gives us in a special way, in particular to spouses-parents?

My best **WISHES** to all of you, the hope that as a ribbon tie at this precious little book, is to **CONTEMPLATE** Jesus on Christmas Eve, the **image of the Father**, our brother in the flesh and in history. It is only by recognizing him as our brother that we **can be a brother to our brothers** who is present among us, it is only in Him that we are God's family, His heirs.

+ Francesco, vescovo



## THE WORK AND THE FEAST IS MADE FOR MAN, FOR HIS RELATIONS

The theme of these pastoral year is: "Family, Celebration and Work" it is echoed in the itinerary of the family of Advent. Celebration and work are the main shelves of family life, life that is organized not only within itself in respect of its rhythms, but also in a matter of outside activities in order to build social relationships.

The feast in the Scriptures is the **FREE TIME** from every preoccupation that is meanly dedicated to **REST** and to render **GRATITUDE** to the Giver of all gifts. The time of the festival is the time out to stop, it made sacred, to give thanks to the eternity and all that gifts his has given. The feast is for man, for his heart and his joy, Remembering Jesus when he was accused of working miracles on the Sabbath. The feast is not worth **IF IT EXCLUDES SOMEONE**, if only for a few, if it is not for all people.

The work of the gospel is not an activity for the accumulation Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, (think of the parable of the rich

man who dies at night time), but it is **AN ACTION** that has **CREATIVE** and to stay with the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth and through his example (let us think of working days as it is like the seven days of creation). In the work Christians are invited to express and live in brotherhood, because they does not work just to work and only for themselves and for their families, but for a **common good**. The work can **BUILD** a fraternity that is open for all, broadminded, sociable, that has as its ultimate purpose for the good of humanity.

### THE BROTHER OF ALL

The goal of the Diocese for the Advent-Christmas revolves around the theme of the *Brother announcement*. A **BROTHER** with the capital B, because He is a brother to all men and women of every generation. A brother who is a concrete example, such as flesh of our flesh, that makes us possible seen by own naked eye, and a brother to everyone. The daily meditations,

therefore is being prepared particularly its focus to the birth of Jesus, a Brother OF HUMANITY. In Jesus, the Most High Almighty becomes Brother of men, as stated in the Epistle to the Hebrews: "Since the children share in flesh and blood, Christ also similarly assume, for [...] become very similar to men" (Heb. 2,14.17). The Son is a Brother because it is in this condition of equality and sharing that can use in a TIME OF FELLOWSHIP became truly fraternal. In Advent-Christmas we will sweep away that superficiality and all prejudices to recognize and protect the HUMAN DIGNITY in every man, woman, child, and to treasure on how to re-learn and defend

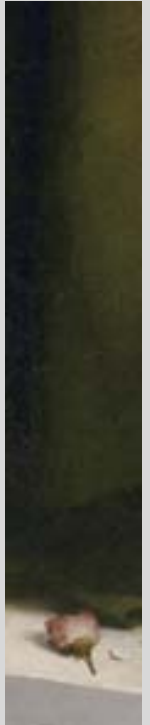
#### THE SUPPORT OF TWO WORKS OF ART

The Diocese has an itinerary work as to review the Iconographic two works of Lorenzo Lotto on the territory of Bergamo. One is the "Madonna and Child Enthroned with Four Saints" preserved in the church of San Bernardino via Pignolo, the other is

the "Altarpiece of Ponteranica". THROUGH THE DETAILS of these two works, it will be trace the route, COMMENTING on THE Sunday GOSPEL, develops the theme of "the announcement of the Brother." For this occasion the "Altarpiece of Ponteranica" will be present in the Museum A. Bernareggi during the Advent season is offering, the location of the other nearby strategically canvas, SPIRITUAL RETREATS and for those parishes who are interested in rediscovering the spiritual and liturgical significance of these masterpieces of our territory.

#### EVERY WEEK HAS A KEY WORD

To make the best articulation of the spiritual journey for families every week we wanted to emphasize a WORD. This emphasis is given by initial capital letters that, like "Brother" to stress the special significance that you want to assign. Often the common words can take on a special value if you go through the breath of the Spirit. To recognize this



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value is meaningful for **THEIR FAITH EXPERIENCE**, particularly in the light of hope, but at the same time, to lighten their **LIVES**, in daily work and in celebration, with the light of faith.

Here is a brief outline of the Key words that is guiding the entire journey:

**First week:** Waiting between work and celebration. Waiting is not to lose the time of being impatient in falling in line at the cashier at the supermarket, but it is a commitment and determination being Christians in daily living. It is important to make some rules that could help the individual and the family that does not disturbed much and not to allow the time to stay always in darkness and become indifferent.

**Second week:** Live according to the Promise. What promise are we talking about? We have received so many false promises, betrayed by those who have not been accomplished of their of promised or are we allergic of this word? How much does it cost us to believe in the promise of

The Lord? Do we know what it is? Is our actions, thoughts and feelings are oriented of that Promise?

**Third week:** To give always testimony. Testimony is not a matter of processes or charges, the testimony is to live our faith in charity for others. The Testimony of the Gospel is silent and active and requires determination. In fact it implies and exactly deals more about little things, it deals to refused and concludes that at the end has no value, it means that we are not even in the pedestal instead we will not easily give up our day.

**Fourth week:** The announcement had changed the history. The announcement is not the news, it is not a news that came from a thousand news that we received every. the Annunciation is the Word given to man, a Word that saves, which is capable of changing in existence, that illumine in the darkness and overturn in the plans of each human being.

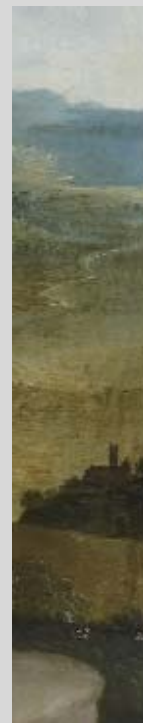
**Christmas:** The Brother was announced. The brother Jesus is, the one who chooses to become part of the human family, that came down from heaven the unfathomable Eternity to become poor and defenseless child. How wonderful songs of hymn from of Paul the Letter to the Philippians: "Jesus Christ, though he was in God, did not consider it a privilege to be like God, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, becoming like men" (Phil 2 0.6 to 7). He rendered as a Brother to offer all His brothers in communion with whom the Father acknowledge as His children.

**Epiphany:** The announcement to all generation. In Christmas celebration, everyone of us is involved in caring the young generation. The right hand of the Parishes are the families so that the good news will be announced and become model of growth for every child and young man.

## IL PERCORSO PER I RAGAZZI

Il sussidio di preghiera per le famiglie è legato a una proposta di ATTIVITÀ per i più piccoli. Ogni giorno, in calce alla pagina, è riportata un'attività da fare e un piccolo IMPEGNO da mantenere. Educare i nostri bambini e ragazzi alla fede significa aiutarli a vivere secondo gli insegnamenti di Gesù favorendoli nell'esprimere i propri sentimenti, valorizzando la loro INTERIORITÀ.

Durante il cammino si costruirà, attraverso delle sagome, un piccolo PRESEPIO in cui saranno presenti i vari personaggi che nella storia «CHI STAI CERCANDO?» aiutano Mario, il protagonista, a seguire la musica che SENTE e a INTERPRETARLA, scoprendo così che si tratta di un cammino-indovinello che solo a Natale si risolverà. Nel presepe verrà collocata una sagoma particolare: quella di vostro figlio/figlia su cui sarà invitato a incollare il proprio volto ritagliato da una foto per rendere VISIBILE la sua PRESENZA.



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THE FEAST: THE TIME TO CONTEMPLATE BEAUTY

## OUR PRAYERS....

The beginning of our Advent is entrusted to an angel who remembers all the prayers from the earth ascend to heaven. Prayer is the space and time not only where we turn to the Lord, but also where we cultivate our desires. The expectation of Lord must have to be honest the smell of desire, that is why it can only grow in prayer. And our prayer is really a small thing, like roses at the feet of sign of the many prayers offered as just like a lover offers a flower to his beloved. They are beautiful, fragrant and reflects the image of generosity and beauty, it does not last long and soon fades, but leaves a fragrance of eternal. The angel is fixedly looks his eyes on us. Seems to say: "have ready You prayer? Are ready to write it down here. " His skilled hands is handling the book: There, all the words of love in all creatures from the Creator are all preserve, only our own is lacking.



# THE WAITING BETWEEN WORK AND FEAST

## LIGHT THE CANDLE AND WE ENTER SILENCE

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON  
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. **AMEN**

## THE THEME OF THE WEEK

The theme of this first week is the expected **BETWEEN WORK AND FEAST**. Advent starts at a thousand things that fill our days: it breaks into everyday that too often tarnishes the look and question us about our expectations.

## LET US LISTEN TO THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AGAIN

FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (13,33-37)

### THE CONTINUE VIGIL

At that time, Jesus told his disciples: Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

## LET US HOLD HANDS

OUR FATHER.....

## LET US PRAY PSALM 39

*The prayer comes from our desire to hold*

And now, LORD, for what do I wait?

You are my only hope.

From all my sins deliver me;

let me not be the taunt of fools.

I am silent and do not open my mouth  
because you are the one who did this.

Every man is but a breath.

Listen to my prayer, LORD, hear my cry;

## LET US GIVE THANKS

LET US BLESS THE LORD.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## ITINERARIO PER RAGAZZI

LEGGI LA PRIMA PARTE A PAG 2 DELLA STORIA "CHI STAI CERCANDO?". RENDI PREZIOSO IL TUO LIBRETTO AGGIUNGENDO DEL COLORE ALLE PAGINE. OGGI, A MESSA, FAI BENE IL SEGNO DELLA CROCE ALL'INIZIO DELLA CELEBRAZIONE



TEACH ME TO  
SEEK AND  
SHOWN TO ME  
LOOKING FOR  
YOU. I CANNOT  
FIND OUT IF YOU  
NOT TAUGHT  
ME, OR IF YOU  
FIND DO NOT  
SHOW.  
LOOKING FOR  
THAT I WILL  
DESIRING, YOU  
WANT SEARCH,  
WHICH YOU ARE  
LOVING, AND  
THAT YOU LOVE  
FOUND.  
SANT'ANSELMO

28 NOV.

FIRST MONDAY OF ADVENT

# THE WAITING BETWEEN WORK AND FEAST

LIGHT THE CANDLE AND WE ENTER SILENCE

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. **AMEN**

LET US LISTEN TO THE WORD

FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS (2,2-3)

## THE BLESSING OF THE FEAST

On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing; he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

LET US REFLECT

Man's life, each of us, is ordered by the rhythm. It is the succession of night and day the first pace that gives room for the rest to work. The order shown in the book of Genesis is the same, but with a word that guides the way: you have to suspend work not only to rest, but also to celebrate, to give thanks.

This is the root of all blessings.

LET US HOLD HANDS

OUR FATHER.....

LET US PRAY TOGETHER REPEATING

*YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS COMING*

You are coming out from the mouth of Wisdom...  
You reign over all things from one end of the earth...  
You teach the way of wisdom ...

LET US GIVE THANKS

LET US BLESS THE LORD.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

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THE WAY THROUGH THE FOREST IS NOT LONG IF YOU LOVE THE PERSON WHOM YOU MUST FIND. PROVERBIO AFRICANO

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# THE WAITING BETWEEN WORK AND FEAST

## LIGHT THE CANDLE AND WE ENTER SILENCE

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. **AMEN**

## LET US LISTEN TO THE WORD

FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS (3,22-24)

### THE WORK FOR THE MAN

The LORD God therefore banished him from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he had been taken. He expelled the man, stationing the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword east of the garden of Eden, to guard the way to the tree of life.

## LET US REFLECT

The story of Genesis sees the work as a punishment, the worse after expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Today, the work is much more than a duty-necessity: it is a place of self-affirmation, the construction of identity, the consolidation of social relations, participation in the common good. Today we are all invited to be in solidarity with those who have lost their

jobs because they have lost much more than a source of income.

## LET US HOLD HANDS

OUR FATHER.....

## LET US PRAY TOGETHER REPEATING

*YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS COMING*

You are the Word who created all things...  
You are the mercy that forgives all sins ...  
You are the Light that enlightens every way ...

## LET US GIVE THANKS

LET US BLESS THE LORD.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

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GOD RESPECTS ME WHILE I'M WORKING. HE LOVES ME WHILE I SING. TAGORE

30 NOV.

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT

# THE WAITING BETWEEN WORK AND FEAST

LIGHT THE CANDLE AND WE ENTER SILENCE

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. **AMEN**

LET US LISTEN TO THE WORD

FROM THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS (23,3-4)

## THE FEAST IS FOR THE LORD

For six days work may be done; but the seventh day is a sabbath of complete rest, a declared holy day; you shall do not work. It is the LORD's sabbath wherever you dwell. These are the festivals of the LORD, holy days which you shall declare at their proper time.

LET US REFLECT

The Bible repeatedly stresses the need to suspend the work one day every six. Our building is on the same week the Jewish reckoning of days, the first week of creation. Yet we realize that our way of counting the days to be changed: what does it mean that the day of the festival is in honor of the Lord?

What is for us on Sunday? What we know "defend" its original value?

LET US HOLD HANDS

OUR FATHER.....

LET US PRAY TOGETHER REPEATING

*YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS COMING*

You count the days of our lives...

You do party with all of us ...

You are rest and peace forever ...

LET US GIVE THANKS

LET US BLESS THE LORD.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

### ITINERARIO PER RAGAZZI

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TRUTH DOES NOT HAVE A SPECIAL HOUR, IT IS ALL MOMENTS, ESPECIALLY MOMENTS WHEN IT SEEMS UNSUITABLE.  
**A. SCHWEITZER**

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