

ADVENT REFLECTION

by Associate Isabel Requejo

We begin this time of Advent, a time that prepares us for Christmas. We live not only looking forward to Christmas, but also knowing we are invited to awaken and keep alive the longed-for return of our Lord Jesus Christ, by preparing our hearts, and our very selves, by making changes in our lives, in our behavior, in our commitments, and in our choices.

Unfortunately, here in Latin America, this time of Advent coincides with some alarming events due to the many conflicts, the prevailing violence, corruption at every level, the lack of love and justice, and literally, the Amazon is on fire. Care and respect for nature no longer exists. Our neighboring countries are convulsed by injustice, marches, arrests, and violent protests with much loss of human life.



So we see Advent as a special invitation to look outside of ourselves, by opening our hearts to the needs of the dispossessed, of those who do not have their basic needs met, the weak, the marginalized, the discriminated, and all who suffer for whatever reason. We also need to concentrate on what is happening to our common home and to make efforts to take care of our Mother earth.

Advent is a time of hope and prayer with the intention of being in constant communication with God, with Jesus, who is being born in every heart, in every home, in every country.

To celebrate Christmas

is to welcome the Child Jesus,
who shares His LIGHT with us,
so we may remain committed
to the construction of a better world,
to work for justice,
and to the care of our environment.