

# Heartbeats

The Company of St. Angela in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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First Sunday of Advent 2017

## Reflections for Advent 2017

### First Sunday of Advent



“You lack no spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“He will keep you firm to the end.”

“Be watchful, be alert.”

“Watch therefore, you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.”

As I read and reflected on the readings for the First Sunday of Advent the above phrases jumped out at me. I can hear Angela speak to us through them as well, as echoed in her Prologue and her Counsels, sometimes almost verbatim. Advent has taken on a new meaning of anticipation and hope this year. I cannot go to prayer nor reflect on this liturgical season without seeing, feeling and experiencing the recent events of the California fires. It is a backdrop for my reality these past weeks. Perhaps, I can say we are blessed by a heightened sensitivity to the needs and suffering of our neighbors and all who have been touched by the firestorms. I am also overcome by the recent acts of terror and violence that have cut short the lives of too many; the needless deaths and losses for which no one was prepared. We are a world overcome by the pain of grief, seeking signs of hope and life.

As we prepare for the birth of Christ anew within us, I recognize the paschal mystery at play in us daily. The reality that with birth comes death ... with death comes life. As we put to rest the past we open ourselves to new life. “We rise again from ashes.” There is life all around us. We seek signs of hope and find them in “communion”. The “communion” that comes through the kind word of another, the acknowledgement of need, the offering of help, the quiet reverence of another’s pain, the rosary offered in silent prayer. At this time, we share in the grief of all humanity. We stand in solidarity with the poor and all in need, seeking to hear, seeking to find our way.

Let us be alert, let us be watchful, let us be attentive to the future within us. Let us give birth to that which God’s fidelity will bring to fruition in us. Amen!

Jeanette Lombardi, OSU  
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