

Pastors Message for Nov. & Dec. 2006

By Rev. Dr. Anthony T. Padovano

Waiting

November and December are family celebrations.

It begins with a reminder that the absent are not gone (all saints day) and their memory brings us life (all souls day).

Later in November, on the very eve of Advent, the Church focuses on the Reign of Christ. God invites us into a larger family and builds a perfect home in heaven where love is the only way we reign.

Advent is a month of expectation. We wait so long and so often because life is a gift rather than a possession, something we receive rather than seize.

Life has a timetable we did not devise, a dynamic we did not initiate. It is not completely ours and never completely given. And so we wait, unable to rush or delay in any substantive manner.

The Christian Community makes waiting a religious experience, teaching us that reality exceeds our expectation. It gives us a child who is the Son of God. We could not expect or dare to hope for that much.

This is why Christmas is so joyous a season. It compels us to see that life has more to offer than we thought. If God could become an infant, everything is possible for us and nothing is lost. God could only become an infant if God counted us as worth more than we knew.

The liturgy of November and December is a celebration of family. Who would have imagined that God could be part of our family or the Son of God our child?

Waiting was never so rich nor expectation so keen. We could not rush or delay that which was simply given in its own season.

We knew that waiting was important. We did not know that it could lead to so much joy. Or that God wanted a family that included all of us.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year
Anthony