

# The Pray More Advent Retreat

Inspiring talks to help you  
prepare to celebrate the  
birth of our Lord,  
Jesus Christ



## Following God's Lead

By Fr. Nathan Cromly

“Solitude is not an empty space, a void; it is an encounter with the God who loves us, a love-space where in the mystery of this encounter so much awaits us. Many distractions fill our day and affect our ability to focus and distinguish between the finite and the infinite. Through solitude we are in a better position to “let go and let God” act in our lives, to surrender control, to know God loves us and be open to the path along which God is moving us. So make use of a few moments throughout the day where a room, a place in the yard, a nearby church, or even a commute alone in traffic, provides time spent with the Lord.”

- Young & Catholic Nigeria

“Settle yourself into solitude, and you will come upon God in yourself.”

• St. Teresa of Avila

## Reflective Questions

1. One of the way that God leads us is by increasing our thirst. Sometimes God gives us hardships just so that the desires we have, and our thirst, becomes greater. This is what he did to Mary; He made her wait and increased her thirst. How has God done this in your life? How have you seen the fruit of it after the fact?
2. The second way God led Mary during the first Advent was by giving her the opportunity to be obedient. What opportunities do you have this week to be obedient?
3. The third way God prepared Our Lady during the first Advent was through unexpected rejection when they was no room for them at the inn. We don't typically think that God leads us by rejection, but He led Mary by rejection. And Mary was able to enter into a solitude with God -- a marvelous

intimacy to be alone with her family, with Jesus, with Joseph. How has rejection led you to something that was better than you would have expected? How has it led you closer to Jesus?

4. Our Lord uses rejection oftentimes to purify us from all of our attachments to everything else besides Him. How has He done this in your life? How has being rejected purified you from your attachments?
5. In many ways, including rejection, God reminds us that the real goal of our life is intimacy with Him, and intimacy with our family, and that our lives belong to Him and to Him alone. How has He reminded you of these things?
6. Nothing on this earth is worthy of our adoration except our Lord Jesus Christ. Does your life reflect this truth?