

The Pray More Advent Retreat

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



Following the Queen of Advent: How Mary Journeyed Through the First Advent

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”Naturally we all have an inclination to command, and a great aversion to obey; and yet it is certain that it is more for our good to obey than to command; hence perfect souls have always had a great affection for obedience, and have found all their joy and comfort in it.”

--Saint Francis of Sales, Doctor of the Church

”By the other virtues, we offer God what we possess; but by obedience, we offer ourselves to Him. They who obey are conquerors, because by submitting themselves to obedience they triumph over the Angels, who fell through disobedience.”

--Pope Saint Gregory the Great, Father and Doctor of the Church

Reflective Questions

1. Are you going through a dryness in your spiritual life? Confusion, a time of waiting, or thirst? Look to Our Lady and draw near to her, and allow her to teach you that that dryness and thirst is a gift. It expands our hearts, so that we're able -- by that expansion, to receive the full gift that God wants to give us.
2. God leads us not only through our desires or by the circumstances of life; He also leads us by other people who intervene. Think of how Joseph had to make the decision to obey the command of Caesar, and how this led to Jesus being born in Bethlehem. Have you experienced the intervention of someone in your life, which led to something beautiful happening because of that intervention or interaction?

3. Joseph and Mary are both great examples of how to practice obedience. Joseph obeyed the law of Caesar and Mary was obedient to how Joseph was leading them. How do you practice obedience in your life? How do you practice obedience to God above all? What, if anything, makes obedience difficult for you?
4. How do you discern what is most pleasing to God? If you've done this in the past, what has come up for you? What has that discernment led to?
5. Mary knew that she was made for sacrificial love. We all are. How does this come into play in your life?