

HOMILY FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

1. Prepare the way of the Lord
 - a. John the Baptist proclaim that is the reason he was sent by God
 - b. He comes before the Lord to make ready the path of the Lord
 - c. For only one purpose God wants us to experience His salvation
2. What is salvation?
 - a. Is it something we want to see
 - b. Images of heaven usually are too tame, angels on clouds, harps
 - c. We will see God face to face; God is not an old man with a beard
 - d. God is the source of life
 - e. We glory in seeing mountains or sites like Grand Canyon
 - f. God planned from all eternity the processes to form these great wonders
 - i. The millions of years it took to form them are less than an instant for God
 - g. Think of great books or music or works of art
 - i. Realize God sent His Spirit to inspire authors who attempt to communicate the wonders they have experience
 - h. This God who is so vastly beyond us wants us to be with Him
 - i. Not just to see Him like a great mountain in the distance
 - ii. He wants us to feel Him, to know Him, to experience Him
 - iii. Salvation is described as being like at a great banquet with the best of foods, or with a lover in the Song of Songs
3. God has an affection and love for us that He will stop at nothing to have us respond to Him, to return His love
 - a. That is what John is saying that He will level the mountains and fill in the valley and straighten the roads so we can come easily to Him
 - b. God wants to remove every obstacle that prevents us from seeing Him
4. The Sacraments are God acting to remove everything possible to our being with Him
 - a. The Scriptures are really love letters from God to us
 - b. He tells us even though you have doubts I want you to be with me
 - c. I want you to trust me, to love me
 - d. Scripture stories are God saying to us, do you remember how I freed your families from slavery, how I healed your compatriots
 - e. Even though like a parent I had to discipline you, I still loved you
 - f. Even when you said you wanted other gods instead of me, I loved you
5. So God gave Himself to us in Jesus who continues to give His Body and Blood to us in the Eucharist
 - a. He continually offers His words of compassion and forgiveness to us in Reconciliation
6. Do we respond with joy and wonder that the Creator of the universe could care about us as puny as we are in the scheme of things?
 - a. How often do we think do I really have to go to church today

- b. I do not want to look deep inside and see what obstacles I have put to God today
 - c. I do not want to admit out loud even with the protection of the Confession Seal that I have not been faithful to God in specific ways
 - d. We all do this, I know I often fall into it myself
 - e. It is hard to believe that if God really knew me better than I know myself that He would love me
7. Satan of course is whispering that to us, God doesn't really care about you
- a. Why don't you find something more exciting to do
 - b. Look for distractions, so you do not have to think about God
 - c. So we re-dig those valleys, and build up the mountains
 - d. We find curves in the road so we do not come face to face with God
 - e. Ironically who are we hurting the most, ourselves
 - f. Instead of getting to know and experience the greatest wonderworker of all we would rather spend our time in our daily anxieties and worries
8. One hope we have is that God is a persistent lover
- a. Even though we give up on Him, He never gives up on us
 - b. He is always there for us, speaking to us in the scriptures, sharing His Body and Blood with us, providing us with a compassionate ear and promising us forgiveness