

## Reflection Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Week Advent 2022

In writing about the Spirit, Isaiah reminds us of our confirmation when the Spirit came to us in a special way. Isaiah wrote that the Spirit is a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. All of which are essential for life and **Integrity**. A great quality of children is their ability to see things clearly while adults like to complicate things making them difficult to understand. Advent offers us an opportunity to rediscover the simple elements of life clearly and to act on them. This was obvious to Jesus who encourages us to listen to them, really listen to them. God speaks to us in all our encounters but in a special way through children. Listening to children we are touched by their simplicity which carries within it a depth of insight that is inspirational. This simplicity emanates wonder and energy, enthusiasm and delight, joy and goodness. No wonder children are special. Called to be aware and awake in Advent is a call to really listen to each other, experience the Spirit who speaks through those we encounter. People with integrity truly listen and discover more clearly how God is present.

**Gift of Wonder** (Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem.)

"Each year, God asks us to shed one more coat of awareness, one more dream state and come alive to the vision of God's plan for each of us and the world-at-large. The older we are, the harder this is to do. As children we had a sense of wonder. Our eyes were wide open and drinking in the fascinating gifts we beheld... Our thirsty souls could not have enough of the wonders of creation. Then, somehow, we grew too old to dream. We tired of the abundance of the world, or at least grew weary of keeping up with the feast of life, and stepped away from the banquet of life.

The natural gift of wonder God gave us as children was meant to be kept alive....Instead we let wonder go to sleep. **Stay Awake!!**