

Reflection Saturday 2nd Week of Advent 2023

Our Advent cry today and in the days ahead comes from the *Response* to the first reading “*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*” The desire for God in everyone comes from the love of the God who made us in his image. But we yearn for a face of God that shines in a way that we feel its presence, its warmth, its reassurance. Wasn’t the reason why Jesus came other than to reassure us of God’s deep, deep love for us. In these cold and darkening days, the warmth of sunshine can change the way we feel about the day, however cold it is, because the darkness is driven away and takes our fears and uncertainties with it. In searching for this reassurance let us become the warmth and light of Jesus for others even as we wait and search.

Fr. Andrew Greeley suggests “*It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the en-fleshing of God — the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people — kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people — no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush...*”