

Reflection Tuesday 3rd Week Advent 2023

The two women, Minoah and Elizabeth, who appeared unable to bear children and who became pregnant, produced children who would become key people in the story of salvation. The stories of these two women help us receive for the story of Jesus birth more easily in the knowledge that nothing is impossible to God.

Pope John Paul II said, *"The liturgy of Advent helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent', a vigilant waiting for the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is a time for intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously.* Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist greets Mary who comes to visit her while carrying God within her. Both women carry the hopes and expectations of Israel in which their children play key roles. Both mothers had to wait full of promise: *"People who have to wait have received a promise that allows them to wait. They have received something that is at work in them, like a seed that has started to grow"* (Henri Nouwen) This kind of waiting is never a movement from nothing to something. Rather, it is a movement from something to something more. Romare Bearden