

Daily Reflections

ADVENT

The Divine Intervention

December 11, 2016

Scripture

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,

"Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?"

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see:

the blind regain their sight,

the lame walk,

lepers are cleansed,

the deaf hear,

the dead are raised,

and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off,

Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,

"What did you go out to the desert to see?

A reed swayed by the wind?

Then what did you go out to see?
Someone dressed in fine clothing?
Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.
Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.
Amen, I say to you,
among those born of women
there has been none greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Our Scripture Reflection

There is something about this Gospel text that has always made me feel like a kid waiting for Christmas to come. John the Baptist's disciples, yes, he had followers, come to investigate Jesus while John is locked up in prison. They had put their hopes in John but were now disillusioned with what had happened to their leader. They had heard some things about Jesus's work but want to go directly to the source for verification. Jesus responds to their inquiry with a litany of accomplishments that had been foretold by the prophets of old as indications of the messiah's presence, and in the process, describes what He has been accomplishing. Little did John's disciples know that they were speaking to the long-awaited messiah! Jesus is among us today carrying out His works in the person of those who believe in Him. Are you ready to be one of them? Rejoice!

Food for your Journey

Mary Clarke was once a Beverly Hills beauty, comfortable with luxury and a weekend beach home. Then a divorce caused her to toss out her middle-aged American life and start again — in the late 1970s, she crossed the border into Tijuana.

According to *The Washington Post* (April 10, 2002), she traded her sparkling gowns for the black habit of a Catholic nun, her English for Spanish, and her Los Angeles home for a Mexican prison cell. For a quarter-century

now, this woman known as “Sister Antonia” has been the Prison Angel of Tijuana, a tiny woman who ministers to the miserable.

Her mission is practical, focused on providing aspirin, eyeglasses, false teeth and bail to petty thieves and impoverished convicts. She washes and prepares for burial the mutilated bodies left in gutters by drug gangs. She sings in the prison chapel to lift the spirits of the depressed. She counsels rapists and drug dealers ... as well as prison guards.

She brings good news to the poor, in surprising ways. Just as her Messiah did before her.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me the Grace that I need to carry out Your good work for those who are in need. When they see me, may they see You as well. Amen.