



Watching & Waiting

Advent reflections from the
Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Week 2: Look to Bethlehem

A year ago Pope Francis reminded us of the importance of the nativity scene with his apostolic letter *A Admirabile Signum*. The Holy Father encourages us to take time to prepare the manger scene in these days leading up to Christmas. It's appropriate then that the second candle on our Advent wreath is also known as the Bethlehem candle. Highlighting the insignificance of this tiny village, we recognize the humble beginnings of the Incarnation. Jesus, God in flesh appearing, comes as a baby in the *most unlikely of places*. Indeed Jesus comes into our lives at the *most unlikely time* and in the *most unlikely circumstances*.

There may be situations in your life, this year especially, that seem unlikely. But let the story of Bethlehem serve as a reminder that nothing is impossible for God. The poverty and simplicity of the cave in Bethlehem did not hinder Him. The power and might of Roman rule did not deter Him.

As we light the second candle on our Advent wreaths, let us remember the little town of Bethlehem and the unlikely circumstances God brought together there. May we find peace in knowing nothing can deter our Lord from coming this Christmas. There are no obstacles for Him. He's waiting to come again. Be ready!

- Sr. Kathryn Press, ASCJ

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