



Watching & Waiting

Advent reflections from the
Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Week 1: Watch!

Some years, Advent catches me off guard. This year is one of those years, and yet, here we are. Advent 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, following a contentious national election, while an economic crisis unfolds.

I was actually startled as I heard the Gospel of the First Sunday of Advent proclaimed. The last word of the Gospel, spoken by Jesus, was “Watch!”

“Watch!” It was as if Jesus were speaking directly to me and to all of humanity at the same time! “Watch!” To watch means to be attentive, while also receiving what is unfolding. Just what is God asking us to “watch?”

As I mulled over this one word spoken by God, I realized perhaps that single word held God’s response to all of our cries for help, healing, protection, sustenance, and for peace. Perhaps God is saying to us, “Watch! Watch what I am doing even in the midst of crisis. Watch for me in the kindness of others. Watch for me in busyness of your day. Watch as I bring light out of darkness. Watch how I can transform even the most unspeakable suffering into goodness, peace and healing love.”

God’s got us! He is holding each of us and whispering, “Watch!”

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