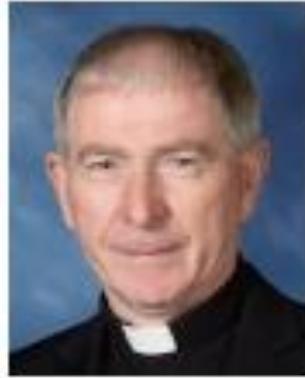


Father Martin's Pen

December 02, 2018



Advent and the Third One.

We are familiar with the Annunciation scene when the angel appeared to Mary to tell her that she was to be the mother of Jesus.

We are also familiar with the angel coming to Joseph in a dream to tell him to take the child and Mary to Egypt to escape the killing of the innocents.

But what about that extra person that seems to walk beside so many of us in the difficult moments of life.

T.S. Eliot wrote in his poem:

The Wasteland

"Who is the third who walks always beside you?
When I count, there are only you and I together
But when I look ahead up the white road
There is always another one walking beside you
Gliding wrapped in a brown mantle, hooded
I do not know whether a man or a woman
-But who is that on the other side of you?"

Edward Shackleton an explorer in 1916, when he was marooned on Antarctica because his ship was crushed, felt a mysterious presence that led him to safety.

In 1912 a man named Wollaston followed a mysterious figure out of the jungle in New Guinea back to civilization.

On September 11th 2001 a Ron DiFrancesco found his way out of one of the Twin Towers in New York to safety with the help of the so called "Third Person."

This Advent, will there be a "Third Person" in your life?

Have we ceased to be aware of the Divine presence with us each day? Advent is a time to awaken to the God who travels with us and watches over us each moment.

This Advent let us be on the lookout for the "Third One."

Father Martin

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