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Second Sunday of Advent Year A  
Christ the Good Shepherd, OCC  
Msgr. Harry Posner  
12/08/2019

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I love the old Sprint commercial, “Can you hear me now?” The person in the commercial would go to different locations trying to get a clear signal, repeatedly asking the question “Can you hear me now?” Our faith journey is much like that commercial. God continues to speak to us, but with all the static with which we fill our lives, sometimes it’s hard to hear God’s voice.

This morning, as we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent, we focus on peace, the peace that God alone can give. Our first reading from Isaiah is a beautiful description of God’s dream for us. With poetic words, Isaiah illustrates that with God all things are possible. The question for us to reflect upon is whether or not we really want to hear God’s call? Do we really want to consider the possibility that God might be inviting us to something more than what has become our ordinary?

Our reading from Isaiah today reminds us that our best days are yet ahead. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ in a few weeks, now is the time for us to look at where we are on our faith journey and to ask God to give us the courage to let go and to believe in the possibilities and miracles that God has in store for us. Remember, God is not just the God of the past, but God is also the God of the present and the future.

The birth of our savior was the result of one person’s yes to God. Mary was asked to let go of her self-imposed limitations and to believe that with God all things were possible. Mary’s yes, her Magnificat, opened the door to the birth of our savior.

While an angel may not come and announce a plan for us, God does come to us in the ordinary events of our day to invite us to step outside of the walls we’ve built up. The word “Angel” simply means messenger of God. We encounter “angels” every day, most often we are unaware. But, if we want to hear God, we have to take the time to listen, to spend time in quiet reflection, in prayer. We have to make room for God in our busy lives, to make God a priority by entering into the quiet, by attending mass,

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by praying in the morning when we rise, and before we close our eyes to sleep. To thank God for the gifts we've been given and to ask for strength and courage when we are tempted or feeling down. God never forces himself or herself upon us. We can choose to say yes lord, let your will be done, or we can choose to say, no, not now. God has given us the gift of freewill.

When I was young, I loved the game hide and seek. Our relationship with God is much like that game. However, instead of hiding, God waits for us in obvious places hoping to be found. Many of us, on the other hand, have become skilled at hiding, at wearing masks to disguise our fear or our pain. Perhaps some of us ignore God's call because we're comfortable with where we are in life, we're satisfied with the status quo. Many of us, myself included, have spent a lifetime subconsciously responding to past hurts or wounds, by building walls to protect ourselves. The only problem is those walls also keep us from hearing and responding to the call of God in our own lives. They prevent us from freely embracing God's liberating love.

My friends, this advent season is about making room for God in our lives. It's about opening our ears so that we can hear God gently call our names and letting God enter into our lives, bringing us peace and healing. No matter what caused us to build up the walls we so fiercely protect, it's time to let them go and to trust that God will take our hand and lead us forward to the freedom and peace that only God can give. Change isn't easy, but with God's love, we have nothing to fear. Let us pray that you and I will find the strength to follow Mary's example and answer God's invitation with a simple "yes, Lord, let our will be done in me."

Can I hear an amen?