



Advent - Christmas 2018

"Maranatha!" "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Dear Sisters:

Autumn is the time to meditate on human issues. We have before us the annual spectacle of the leaves that fall from the trees. We have always seen in it an image of human destiny. A generation is coming, a generation is leaving ...

With the first Sunday of Advent a new liturgical year begins. The Gospel that will accompany us in cycle C will be that of St. Luke. The Church welcomes the occasion of these strong moments, from one liturgical year to another, so that we stop for a moment to observe our course, to ask the questions that count: Who are we? Where did we come from? And above all, where are we going?

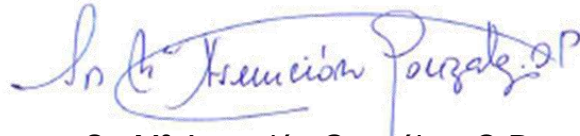
To this expectation, realized with the coming of the Messiah, the Gospel message gives it a new content, which is, the glorious return of Christ at the end of time. The forces of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with great power and glory. They are tones of catastrophes, nevertheless it is a message of consolation and hope; we are walking towards the encounter with the one who has created us and loves us more than our own parents.

Saint Paul in the conclusion of the second letter to the Corinthians repeats a prayer born in the first Christian communities: "Maranatha", "Come, Lord ". Also we, in a just manner, can say like the first Christians: "Come, Lord Jesus". It is clear that we do not want the end of the world to come now, but that this unjust world ends. We want the world to be profoundly changed, to begin the civilization of love, to arrive at a world of justice and peace, without violence, without hunger. We want all these: **and how could it happen without the presence of Christ? Without the presence of Christ a truly just and renewed world will never come.** And, although in another way, we can and must also say, with great urgency and in the circumstances of our time: Come, Lord Jesus! Come to your world in the manner you know. **Come where there is injustice and violence.** Come to the refugee camps, in so many places in the world. Come where the drug dominates. Come also among those rich who have forgotten you, who live only for themselves. Come where you are unknown. **Come to your world and renew the world of today.** Come also to our hearts, come and renew our life, come to our heart so that we ourselves can be God's light, your presence. In this sense we pray with St. Paul: "Maranatha!" "Come, Lord Jesus!"

During this liturgical season we celebrate Mary in a special way, as Mother of God and our Mother. That like her we can be carriers of the presence of her Son in our world.

Happy Advent and Christmas!

A fraternal embrace and my prayer,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sr. Mª Asunción González, O.P." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sr. Mª Asunción González, O.P.
Prioress General