



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

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During this Advent Season I am following closely the weekly reflections of Pope Francis for people who gather on Wednesdays or Sundays in St. Peter's Square. He is focusing his messages on preparing our hearts for Christmas. Here is Vatican Radio's summary of our Holy Father's reflection where he focuses on "sins of omission". Sins of omission, as you may remember, are the sins we commit by failing to do the good God wants from us. So often we think only of our sins of "commission", the bad things we do. Here below is the summary of Pope Francis' message.

As we look into ourselves and recognize our sins, in particular those of omission, Advent he said is a good time to pray more intensely and fill the voids we see. For example, the Pope continued, we are called to be more attentive to the needs of others, and in this way, just like John the Baptist, we can open paths of hope in the arid hearts of so many people.

The Pope also invited the faithful to prepare for the coming of the Lord as we would prepare for the arrival of a loved one: "with care and joy".

"In the same way we must prepare for Jesus: waiting for him with care and expectation so we can be filled with his grace when he arrives" he said.

That voice crying out in the desert, the Pope continued, is also an indication of the climate of conversion and penitence that puts us in the right state to meet the Lord.

"The Savior we are waiting for is capable of transforming our lives with the force of the Holy Spirit, with the strength of love" he said.

Francis concluded pointing out that Our Lady was totally immersed in this reality, allowing herself to be "baptized" by the Holy Spirit who filled her with his power: "May she, who prepared for the arrival of Christ with the totality of her existence, help us to follow his example and may she guide us in our steps to meet the Lord who is coming".

God Bless, Father Jonathan

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