

# From the Pastor

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One of many things we reflect on during Advent is God's ability to bring good from every situation and circumstances of our lives, no matter how difficult and sometimes evil they may seem. I recently read a story about a young priest, Fr. Oscar, now the vice rector of a religious community in Connecticut who also discovered the amazing capacity of God's Providence right at the beginning of his vocational journey.

Oscar and his older brother didn't always get along. At one point, when Oscar was about 13-years-old, his older brother was making life particularly difficult for him. Both boys usually went to the same summer camp, but that summer, Oscar was determined to choose someplace where his brother wasn't going to be. All the options dwindled away, for various reasons, except one. He had received an invitation to come to a summer program at a high-school seminary - a seminary for high-school aged boys who already feel a call to the priesthood.

Oscar had no desire to be a priest, but he did have a strong desire to get away from wherever his brother was, so he registered for the program. He ended up having a fantastic summer and a profound experience of Christ. He was so moved by discovering Christ's personal love for him, in fact, that he ended up joining the high school seminary, and that's how his journey to the priesthood began. Trying to avoid the presence of his older brother was not a very virtuous motivation, but God's love used it to lead him right into Christ's arms.

And God can do the same with us. Sometimes we have wrong expectations in our relationship with God because we underestimate God's ability to bring good things out of bad situations, and so we get discouraged in the face of difficulties. We must never underestimate the power of God's Providence to guide our lives, in spite of obstacles, difficulties, and even our own sinfulness.

We should have yet two weeks of Advent, but this year at this time we practically have one left. Next week we go straight from last Sunday of Advent to Christmas celebration (Vigil, Midnight Mass, and Christmas Day).

Let's wisely use the time that is left before the Birthday of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*+ Father Roger*