

# From the Pastor

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

This short fourth week of Advent introduces us directly to the Christmas celebration. As we conclude Advent we reflect on how amazingly and surprisingly God interrupts our own human plans. We marvel at the Blessed Virgin Mary's agreement to be the Mother of the Son of God (inexplicable for our human mind). What an amazing trust in God's Word on her part! Mary's "yes" to God definitely wasn't easy, especially because it involved a total change of her plans. None of us ever likes someone telling us we have to change our plans. It always sounds for us like an abuse of our freedom.

But God often does the same thing with us. Like a good coach, he pushes us out of our comfort zone so that we can reach our full potential as Christians. There are three ways especially in which God tends to disrupt our plans:

1. When we are really busy and don't want any interruptions He brings us into contact with someone who needs help.
2. When we suddenly discover that certain popular and fashionable behaviors or activities (which we would like to follow) are actually against Church teaching, that they will cause damage to us and to others.
3. When we are really tired, fed up, or angry, our conscience - like the angel Gabriel in the case of Blessed Virgin Mary - sends us a message saying that we really need to keep working on a particular goal, or to do a little extra work, or to be extra patient with someone, or to hold our tongue.

These three common ways (besides their multiple variations) in which God disrupts our personal plans happen to us, so we may have the opportunity to accept God's invitation to be partners in His plan of salvation.

Jesus' coming to us as one of us and every Christmas, His annual birthday party, has been and still will be a definite disruption to the whole humanity. Some people are still in a process to accept this as a fact, because they still don't want their plans to be disrupted by it. I hope that we, Catholic Christians, who want to follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary in listening to God, will again respond generously to those disruptions; that we keep praising and thanking God for His great gift in His Son, Jesus Christ, that our part in God's plan of salvation is sure to get done.

May this year's fresh experience of Christmas help us conform our way of life to the amazing grace God has given us in the new born Christ.

From myself, and on behalf of St. Boniface's Parish Staff - Merry Christmas!

*+Father Roger*