

# MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR



NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER  
2024  
NUMBER 6



Christmas, Love  
and the  
Salvation of God  
for the Poor

*“During Advent we make the  
expectation of the Messiah our  
own”*

THE CHARISM OF THE  
MSP

*Obedience and Community*

NEWS FROM OUR  
HOUSES

*Saint Teresa of Jesus in  
our Home*

*Emotional meeting of  
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# CHRISTMAS, LOVE AND THE SALVATION OF GOD FOR THE POOR

“DURING ADVENT WE MAKE THE EXPECTATION OF THE MESSIAH OUR OWN”

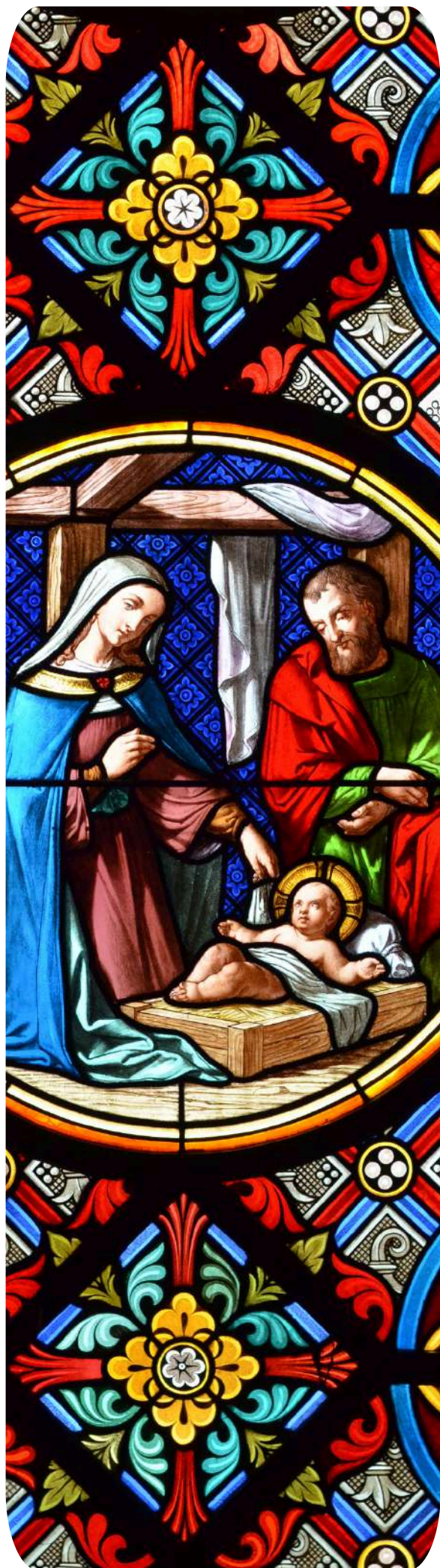


We are in the sacred time of Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year, with the expectation of the Nativity of the Son of God, “the Messiah, the Lord.” This event, although hidden from the eyes of the world, is of capital importance. Above all, because it is the culminating point, or rather, the apotheosis of the history of salvation. In fact, when the child Jesus was incarnated in the womb of the Virgin Mary and became Man, the people of Israel had been waiting for the Messiah for more than a thousand years, for he had been promised by God, announced by numerous prophets, who always waited with the firm hope that He would come.

In the time of Advent, we make this waiting our own. Indeed, this is the meaning of the word *adventus*. The Gospel passages of the Sundays of Advent invite us to a vigilant and joyful wait. They also invite us to conversion, as St. John the Baptist reminds us: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt 3:2). Therefore, in Advent we celebrate the mystery of the coming of the Lord in a joyful attitude of vigilance, waiting and acceptance. Our life is presented, with ever new wonder, with the intimate mystery of a God who has become man. This is a mystery that ***Advent prepares for, Christmas celebrates, and Epiphany makes manifest.***







One of the most important prophecies of the Old Testament was that made to King David. In it, it was prophesied that one of his descendants would be on his throne forever, exactly what the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin at the time of the Annunciation. Saint Joseph, and most likely the Virgin too, were of the lineage of David, of the tribe of Judah.

For the census ordered by the Emperor Augustus, they went to Bethlehem where King David came from. So most likely Saint Joseph, who was also from that city, had close relatives there. However, they all rejected him. And the **KING OF KINGS** had to be born in a humble stable. That leads us to the question: What kind of Messiah did the people of Israel expect? But also, what Messiah do I expect in my life? It is known that the people of Israel at that time, oppressed by the yoke of the Roman Empire, expected a rather political or warrior Messiah who would free Israel from its enemies. However, there was a small group, the most faithful of the people, the so-called "**anawim**," such as Zechariah, Elizabeth, and the elderly Simeon, who expected a different Messiah. They would be the ones chosen to reveal Him to the world.

The Annunciation and the subsequent Adoration of the Shepherds may seem surprising to us, since the shepherds were poor people and little esteemed by the rest of the people since they could not fulfill their religious duties and were often considered thieves. Nevertheless, they were the first to receive the Good News and ran to see its realization.

When Jesus is born, we know through the revelation of the Archangel Gabriel that He already fulfills one of the prophecies made to David, "he will reign on the throne of David his father." That is why, on the Cross, the Lord will pronounce the **"consummatum est,"** meaning that all the prophecies about Him had been fulfilled.

Advent is the liturgical season in which the eschatological dimension of the Christian mystery is strongly evident. God has destined us for salvation (cf. 1 Thess 5:9), but this inheritance will be revealed only at the end of time (cf. 1 Pet 1:5). During her earthly pilgrimage, the Church lives incessantly in the tension between the **"already"** of salvation fully accomplished in Christ and the **"not yet"** of His action in us and of His complete manifestation with the glorious return of the Lord as Judge and Savior.

Advent, finally, by revealing to us the true, profound and mysterious dimensions of the coming of God, reminds us at the same time of the missionary vocation of the Church and of every Christian for the coming of the Kingdom of God. The mission of the Church to announce the Gospel to all peoples is essentially based on the mystery of the coming of Christ, sent by the Father, and on the coming of the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father and by the Son.

**A MERRY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**







*"The poor do not need only bread: above all they need love; above all they need Jesus."*

FR. GIOVANNI SALERNO



# THE CHARISM OF THE MSP

## *Obedience and Community*

We want to go out to meet the poor with the freedom and strength of obedience, like Jesus, obedient unto death. We believe in the value of personal suffering and humiliation, which in the eyes of the world often appear as failures, which come to us perhaps through the action of loved ones. These are the weapons of our apostolate, which open us to the problems of poverty and of the work of our brothers in the Third World.

All members of the Movement (priests, lay people, seminarians, married couples with children, religious men and women, contemplatives and active members) are invited to live in this way, in silence and total obedience, the imitation of Jesus Christ, the Servant par excellence. Here, too, the precious book *The Imitation of Christ* will accompany us with profound reflections and lofty sentiments (see, above all, Book III, chapters 13 and 15).

### **Community**

Various aspects of this second reality (the community) have been considered when dealing with obedience, because one of the most important and precious fruits of obedience is precisely that of allowing an ecclesial community to take root and mature exuberantly in its fertile soil.



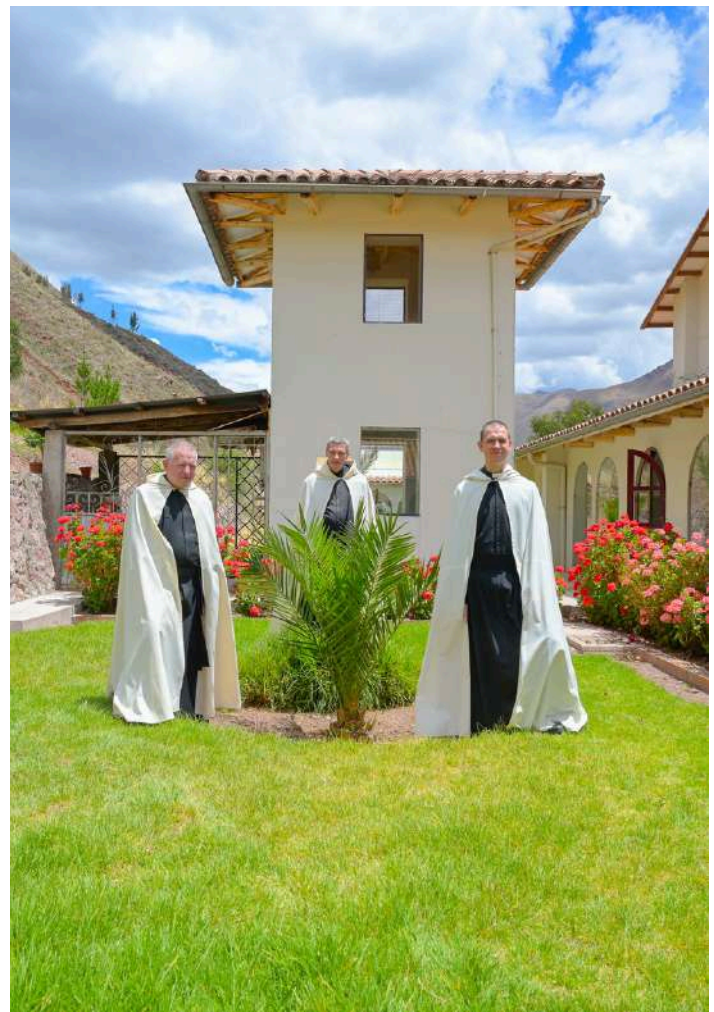
It is enough to recall the legacy of Christ in His priestly prayer at the Last Supper to convince us that the community of those who unite in the name and love of Christ, of those who "have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Pt. 2:3), is a reality and a sign of salvation.

«I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another» (Jn 13:34-35). And he immediately adds the essence and measure of this love: «Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends» (Jn 15:13).

And St. John himself, in his first letter to the Churches at the beginning of our era, underlines the importance of this fundamental legacy of Jesus: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us" (1 Jn 4:7-9; 4:11-12).

***To be continued...***

**Fr. Giovanni Salerno**



***"With obedience and love that transforms suffering, we touch the face of Christ in the poor and create a community where sacrifice becomes salvation."***



# NEWS FROM OUR HOUSES

## *Saint Teresa of Jesus in our Home*

Every year, our Children's Home celebrates the feast day of Saint Teresa of Jesus, its patron saint, with great joy. For this occasion, we organized the traditional trip to Urubamba where we prepared a few "different" days full of activities for our children to have fun. During these three days of outing, we organized games, dances, contests, videos, bonfires, and swimming, ensuring that they were always busy and happy. With great satisfaction and gratitude, we can say that they were eventful days full of smiles and laughter.

We entrust to Saint Teresa of Jesus the physical and spiritual health of our children, and we also remember all those who, as children, passed through our Home.

May God protect you and keep you safe in His Sacred Heart.

## *Emotional meeting of the families of our minor seminarians*

The second week of October, the Vocational Center held an emotional meeting with the families of our minor seminarians, highlighting the fundamental family support in God's call.

The day began with Holy Mass, an essential pillar of our community. Then students and families presented a play about saints and biblical characters who responded to the divine call, inspiring everyone to follow their examples.

The presentation was a time of laughter and reflection, highlighting the beauty of the vocation. To close, there was a family sporting event, strengthening family ties.

This event reaffirms our commitment to promoting the comprehensive development of young people, where faith and family support are essential.







# S.O.S

## TO YOUNG PEOPLE

If you are a young person or a married couple, or if you desire to form a support group in your country or to be an oblate, God is calling you. Don't ignore the call, and say "yes" to Christ.

contact us!





# MISSIONARY COMMITMENT OF THE MONTH

GO AHEAD! BE PART OF THE MSP WITH  
YOUR MISSIONARY COMMITMENT



**In December I will focus on helping those who are alone on Christmas and in doing concrete acts of charity.**



# WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS

THE MOST IMPORTANT HELP FOR THE MISSIONARIES IS YOUR PRAYER

REGISTER NOW



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