

## ***An Advent Message from Our Pastor...***

*As I was praying and thinking about the Advent season, my thoughts turned to family memories, specifically my mom giving birth. With 14 siblings this was a regular feature in our family life. I recall my parents breaking the news to us when we gathered as a family in the evening for prayer. I cannot remember what was said, but it immediately caused an atmosphere of expectancy, of excitement! A baby was coming! Would it be a boy or girl? What should the name be? Who would have to move bedrooms to make room for this new person? Would my dad have to build another bunk bed? In the last weeks of the pregnancy there were special times when my mother would invite us to put our hand on her tummy to feel the movements of the baby. What an amazing sensation it was to feel the life growing within and to know that the baby's coming was imminent.*

*In an earlier address Pope Francis said, "The season of Advent restores ... a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! ... Let us think about and feel this beauty."*

*Advent is not unlike what I did as a kid, when I put my hand on my mother's pregnant stomach and felt the life, the hope within. What a beautiful feeling it was. During this season, we are called to reflect on how God has come into the world and how he continues to come into this world. In a very special way he came through Mary. Perhaps we can spiritually put our prayerful hand on Mary's tummy and feel the life within, the very life of God in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. May it awaken in us a renewed hope and an active vigilance to the coming of God in our lives and in the world. Let us make room today for Jesus who wants to fill us with God's grace just as he did to Mary a long time ago.*

***Advent blessings,***

***Father Dominic***

*Season of Advent*

Awaiting the Arrival of Christ

