

An Invitation to a Spiritual Relationship

You're Invited! In the good ol' days we would not give a second thought to sending out cards, e-cards and other social mediums. It is not so easy these days. Often it is: "You're invited but... only come if you are XYZ and LMNOP". In our spiritual life, God is always in the business of inviting. There is not one human being that he does not invite. He leaves the invitation free. We are free to accept or reject the invitation.

During Advent we are called to reflect on our response to the greatest invitation that God has made to us – the invitation to enter into a life-changing friendship with Jesus. It is from this spiritual relationship that we can begin to make sense of and enter into the fullness of relationships with those around us.

In our world today relationships are often transactional; in our consumer-driven society so much of our interactions are based on money. The relationship that God invites us into is free. Recall Isaiah 55:1-3 – *"Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come... Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live."* He gives us his heart (Jesus). All God wants is our hearts. All he desires is that we enter into a heart-to-heart relationship by giving Him our hearts so that we might truly live.

In that spiritual relationship we discover that the pattern of Jesus' life is the very pattern of our lives. From a relationship with his Father, to a relationship with his disciples, to a relationship with the suffering Jesus gives us a spirituality that brings an abundant fruitfulness and richness to our lives that no material things could ever bring. Jesus gives us a spirituality of living.

This Advent, beginning with our Advent Retreat and carrying through to each of the four Sundays of Advent we invite you to reflect on four dimensions of a spiritual relationship: Forgiveness, Compassion, Celebration and Gratitude. May our reflections bring us closer to Jesus and into a deeper solidarity with each other.

Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus!

Fr. Dominic

