

## Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak  
michaelr@stmoside.org  
760-758-4100 x100

### What Are You Waiting For?

"I'd like to dwell briefly on this suggestive theme of 'waiting,' as it speaks to a profoundly human aspect, in which faith becomes, so to say, one with our flesh and our hearts.

Waiting—standing by—is a dimension that crosses all of our existence: personal, family, and social. This waiting is found in a thousand situations, from those little, everyday ones all the way to the most important things, those which completely, deeply wrap us up.

Among these, let us think of the waiting for a child by a couple; those of a relative or friend who comes to visit us from afar; let us think, for a young person, of the waiting for the result of an important test, or a job interview; in emotional relationships, of

the waiting for one's encounter with their beloved, of the response to a letter, or the acceptance of an apology...

It could be said that man is alive while he waits, that in his heart hope is alive. And from these waitings man comes to know himself: our moral and spiritual 'stature' can be measured by that for which we wait, by that in which we hope.

Each of us, then, especially in this time that prepares us for Christmas, can ask ourselves: what am I waiting for? What, in this moment of my life, reaches out of my heart?

This same question can place itself in the context of family, of community, of nation. What do we wait for, together? What unites our hopes, what do we share?

In the time preceding the birth of Jesus, so strong in Israel was the anticipation of the Messiah, of the Sacred One, descendant of King David, who would finally liberate the people from their moral and political slavery and inaugurate the Kingdom of God.

But no one would ever have imagined that the Messiah could be born of a humble girl like Mary, betrothed to the just man Joseph. Neither had she thought of it, though in her heart the waiting for the Savior was so great, her faith and her hope so ardent, that He could find in her a worthy mother.

From the first, God himself prepared her, even from before the ages.

There is a mysterious correspondence between the waiting of God and that of Mary, the creature 'full of grace,' totally transparent to the design of the Most High's love.

Let us learn from her, the Lady of Advent, to live our daily duties with a new spirit, with the sense of a profound waiting, one only the coming of God can quench."

—Pope Benedict XVI  
*Noontime Angelus, 11/28/10*

*F. Mike*