



WEEK 3: CALLED TO WELCOME IMMIGRANTS, WELCOMING HOPE



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(A FOUR-WEEK ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES)

“Only if we know how to be silent and involve ourselves in the suffering of the poor will we be able to speak out of their hope.”

Gustavo Gutierrez, *On Job*

Advent is a season that welcomes a particular kind of hope. This season celebrates the hope that the birth of the incarnate God reveals. It is the hope that takes root in Jesus; it is the hope that his parents and community nourished in him as a child and that he shared with his friends as an adult. It is the hope that flourished fully on the cross and that speaks to the joy of the resurrection. It is a hope that knows to rest in the Spirit and trust in the life-giving love of the one who, with Jesus, we call Father. Ours then is a hope that is true to Jesus’ experiences of struggle, rejection, love, and joy. Ours is a hope that neither denies nor justifies the suffering of the poor. Instead, it is a hope that listens intently to their cry, moving one to friendship with them in response.

We believe that the kind of hope that Jesus reveals takes root in us through our baptism. It is the hope that as his disciples we are called to nourish. This season of Advent—a little Lent, as the priest’s purple vestments remind us—may each of us nourish the virtue of hope by welcoming one immigrant or one refugee into our lives, even if for a moment. When we do, may we know to rest in the Spirit and be silent and still. May we be humbly attentive to their voice. May we neither deny nor explain away their frustrations, anxieties, or sorrows. Perhaps then will our hearts be moved to befriend them. Perhaps at that moment, both will experience, even if briefly, the welcoming presence of Jesus and in Him, the love and Joy of our Father.



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