



## ADVENT WEEK 4: CALLED TO CELEBRATE AND PROTECT LIFE



CONTRIBUTED BY: JPIC STAFF & COLLABORATORS  
(A FOUR-WEEK ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES)

*“Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice -Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ...at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.” cf. Lk. 1:41-45*

**A**t the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news. ... but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfilment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21) *“Evangelium Vitae #1*

Today’s gospel reminds us of two women who affirm what every thoughtful pregnant woman knows: that within her womb she carries a baby, who, like the babies in the wombs of Mary and Elizabeth, are totally dependent on her.

For many reasons, some women may be overwhelmed by that reality: an unmarried condition, perhaps; or lack of supportive family, friends, or financial aid. Some 3500 support centers offer compassionate care and support, before, during and after birth, without regard to age, sex, race, income, or other arbitrary circumstances. Empowered by real alternatives, often complemented by parenting courses, education initiatives and prayer, they offer even the most distressed woman *a better choice for a better life.*

“The “culture of waste” that today enslaves the hearts and minds of so many comes at a very high cost: it asks for the elimination of human beings, especially if they are physically or socially weaker. Our response to this mentality is a decisive and unreserved yes to life.... Things have a price and can be sold, but people have a dignity; they are worth more than things and are above price....” (Address to the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations,)

We are all called, *some by word, others by action, all by example,* to proclaim the Gospel of Life.

### Questions:

- How do I apply the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth to my view of life?
- Are my choices and decisions clouded by consumerism and oblivious to wastefulness or concerned of the scarcity and suffering of others?
- How do I fully support those engaged in one aspect of the Gospel of Life, while concentrating my energies on another?



Thank you, Loving God, for the gift of life, for all that sustains us and for the care of all who have supported that gift during all our joys and sorrows. Imitating the example of Jesus, your Son. May we always care for our common home and the gift of life which is sustained and nourished by the all that your creation offers to us. Amen.

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*A Ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate - United States Province*

Phone: (202) 529-4505. Email: [jplic@omiusa.org](mailto:jplic@omiusa.org) Website: [www.omiusajpic.org](http://www.omiusajpic.org)