

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) – December 14, 2025

Theme: RNDM Mission – Presence of Hope



The Third Week of Advent invites us to **rejoice in hope** as we draw closer to the **coming of the Lord**. The growing light of the Advent candles reminds us that **God's promise is already unfolding among us**. This is not merely a time of waiting, but of attentive readiness—of learning to recognize Christ who comes quietly into our daily lives, our communities, and our mission. As RNDM sisters and partners in mission, this week calls us to be **living signs of hopeful presence in a world yearning for light**.

Scripture: (James 5:7–10)

“Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.”

Reflection

This passage calls us to live with patience—not a passive patience, but a radiant one, filled with hope—because **“the coming of the Lord is near.”** In our missionary communities, waiting is never idle; it is an active posture of faith, a courageous **“being present in the now,”** trusting that God is at work even when His action remains hidden from our eyes. As RNDM missionaries among the poor, the marginalized, and the suffering, our lives become a quiet but powerful testimony to this patient hope. We continue to sow seeds of faith, justice, and love in uncertain times, believing deeply that our mission itself participates in the ongoing coming of Christ into the world.



James also reminds us that authentic hope is safeguarded by fraternal communion: **“Do not grumble against one another.”** True Christian waiting matures in relationships marked by charity, forgiveness, and unity. When we live in genuine solidarity and love, we do more than sustain one another—we prophetically anticipate the Kingdom that is to come. The prophets whom James proposes as our models spoke in the name of the Lord amid trials, opposition, and suffering. Their faithful endurance assures us that **God's promises are fulfilled, not through haste, but through fidelity.**

For us as RNDM, this call to patience renews the heart of our missionary commitment. We are not isolated laborers but part of a living tradition of prophecy, service, and compassionate presence. Our mission is not limited to providing material assistance; it is, above all, to be a **“presence of hope”**, a presence that consoles without conditions, accompanies without haste,

and proclaims the God-given dignity of every person, even when the harvest seems distant and unseen.

RNDM Connection

Servant of God, **Euphrasie Barbier**, trusted deeply in God's providence, even amid uncertainty and suffering. She once reminded us that the mission belongs to God before it is ever ours. This conviction continues to shape our RNDM identity today. Our Constitutions affirm that our missionary life flows from intimate union with Christ and from faithful presence among the poor. We are called to walk with God's people in hope, trusting that He brings growth in ways beyond our vision and control.

"The work is God's, not ours. We must do our part with faith and confidence."

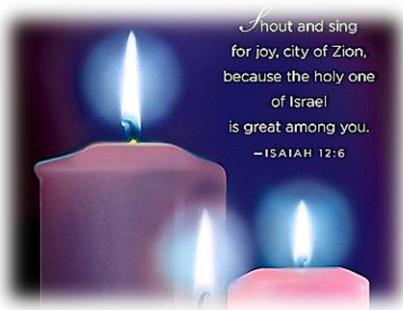
Prayer

Loving and faithful God,
You come to us in silence and in light,
in waiting and in fulfillment.
Teach us to be patient like the farmer,
faithful like those who trusted in Your promises,
and gentle like your Son, Jesus.

As RNDM sisters and partners in mission,
make us a living presence of hope
where there is fear, discouragement, and pain.
Strengthen our hearts as we wait for Your coming,
and help us to recognize Your presence
in every person we serve. **Amen.**

Suggested Songs:

WAIT FOR THE LORD (Taize): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7GexlvX8HU>
CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJq3bhgdQoc>



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