

How Was Your Advent?



How was your advent? Perhaps not the normal post Christmas greeting, which is usually “How was your Christmas?” I love the celebration of Christmas, however this year I found advent, the season of waiting, to be very meaningful and in particular these words by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, written from prison camp in 1943.

“It's still not Christmas, but it's also still not the great last Advent, the last coming of Christ. Through all the Advents of our life that we celebrate runs the longing for the last Advent, when the word will be: "See, I am making all things new" (Rev. 21:5). The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth.”

So... How is your Advent - this season of waiting? In this advent Christ is with us! And while it is a season of waiting, it is so much more. It is one of contemplation - of sitting at Christ's feet - as demonstrated by Mary in Luke 10. But it is also one of action - of being called to be Christ's hands and feet as the good Samaritan of Luke 10. And what a privilege we spiritual directors have in this season of waiting to not only discern for ourselves how we are being called to contemplative action, but to also have the sacred privilege of walking and being present with others as they discern Christ's presence and call on their lives.

Jesus, your light is shining within us.

Let not my doubt and my darkness speak to me.

Jesus, your light is shining within us.

Let my heart always welcome your love. (Taizé)

Tom Bell