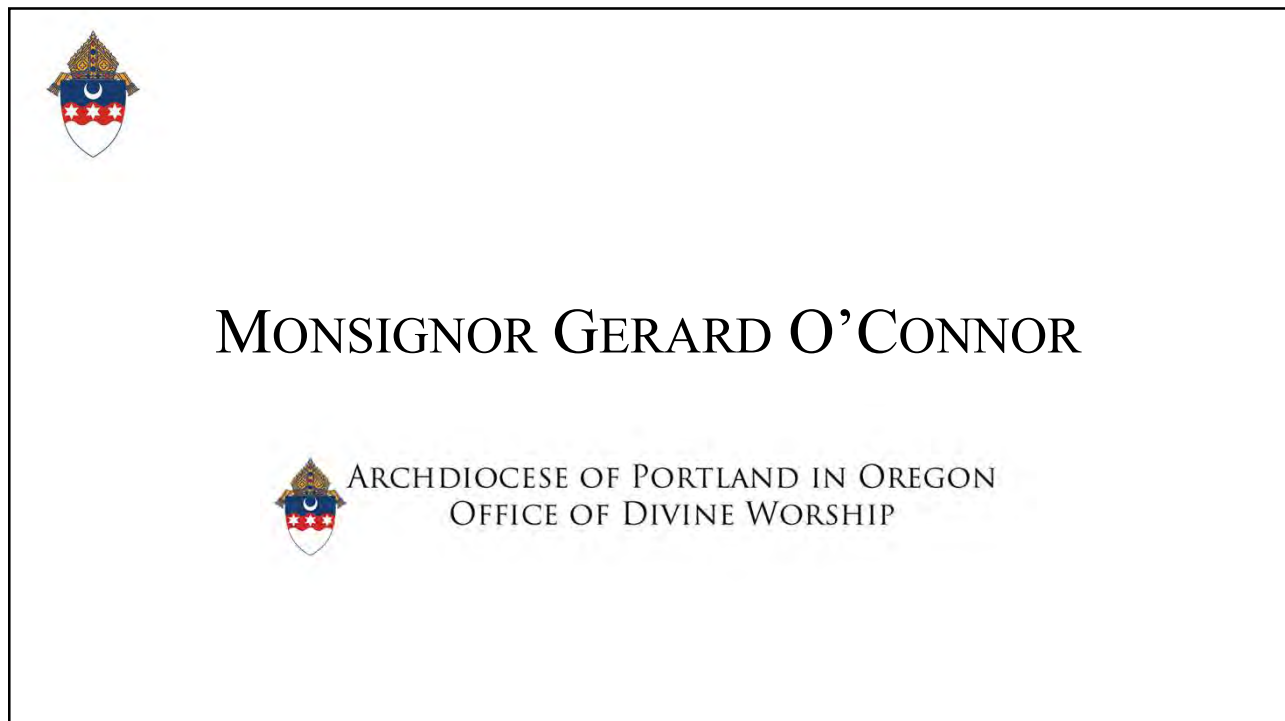




1



2



ADVENT RETREAT

1. Devout & Joyful Expectation
2. St. Bernard's Three Comings
3. Advent of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist

3



FIRST VESPERS OF ADVENT

Ant 1. Proclaim the Good News among the nations: Our God will **come** to save us.

Ant 2. Know that the Lord is **coming** and with him all his saints; that day will dawn with a wonderful light, alleluia.

Ant 3. The Lord will **come** with mighty power; all mortal eyes shall see him.

4



FIRST VESPERS OF ADVENT

See the Lord **coming**
 from afar;
 his splendor fills the earth.

- *Canticle of Mary*

5



FIRST VESPERS OF ADVENT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
 the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
 with righteous deeds at his **coming**,
 so that, gathered at his right hand,
 they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
 Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

- *Collect*

6



OFFICE OF READINGS OF
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Catechetical Instruction of
St. Cyril of Jerusalem

d. 386

7



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

We do not preach only one **coming** of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first **coming** was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

8



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden **coming**, like that of rain on fleece, and a **coming** before all eyes, still in the future.

9



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

At the first **coming** he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second **coming** he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second **coming** he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels.

10



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

We look then beyond the first **coming** and await the second. At the first coming we said: Blessed is he who **comes** in the name of the Lord. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: Blessed is he who **comes** in the name of the Lord.

11



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

Blessed is he who **comes** in
the name of the Lord.

- *Psalm 118:26*

12



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

The Savior will not **come** to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgement he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: You did these things, and I was silent.

13



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

His first **coming** was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion.

This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity.

14



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

The prophet Malachi speaks of the two **comings**. And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple: that is one coming. Again he says of another coming: Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight?

Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.

15



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the **joyful hope**, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

16



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will **come** again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

17



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore **come** from heaven. He will **come** at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

18



ST. AUGUSTINE

He has come the first time, and he will come again. At his first coming, his own voice declared in the gospel: Hereafter you shall see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds. What does he mean by hereafter? Does he not mean that the Lord will come at a future time when all the nations of the earth will be striking their breasts in grief? Previously he came through his preachers, and he filled the whole world.

19



ST. AUGUSTINE

“Let us not resist his first coming, so that we may not dread the second.”

20



ST. AUGUSTINE

What then should the Christian do?
 He ought to use the world, not
 become its slave.
 And what does this mean?
 It means having, as though not
 having.

21



ST. AUGUSTINE

For what sort of love of Christ is it to fear
 his coming? Brothers, do we not have to
 blush for shame? We love him, yet we fear
 his coming. Are we really certain that we
 love him? Or do we love our sins more?
 Therefore let us hate our sins and love him
 who will exact punishment for them. He will
 come whether we wish it or not.

22



ST. AUGUSTINE

Do not think that because he is not coming just now, he will not come at all. He will come, you know not when; and provided he finds you prepared, your ignorance of the time of his coming will not be held against you.

23



ST. AUGUSTINE

He will judge the world with equity and the peoples in his truth. What are equity and truth? He will gather together with him for the judgement his chosen ones, but the others he will set apart; for he will place some on his right, others on his left. What is more equitable, what more true than that they should not themselves expect mercy from the judge, who themselves were unwilling to show mercy before the judge's coming.

24



ST. AUGUSTINE

Those, however, who were willing to show mercy will be judged with mercy. For it will be said to those placed on his right: Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom which has been prepared for you from the beginning of the world. And he reckons to their account their works of mercy: For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

25



ST. AUGUSTINE

Gospel of
St. Matthew 25:35

26



ST. AUGUSTINE

Or do you, because you are unjust, expect the judge not to be just? Or because you are a liar, will the truthful one not be true? Rather, if you wish to receive mercy, be merciful before he comes; forgive whatever has been done against you; give of your abundance. Of whose possessions do you give, if not from his? If you were to give of your own, it would be largess; but since you give of his, it is restitution. For what do you have, that you have not received?

27



ST. AUGUSTINE

These are the sacrifices most pleasing to God: mercy, humility, praise, peace, charity. Such as these, then, let us bring and, free from fear, we shall await the coming of the judge who will judge the world in equity and the peoples in his truth.

28