

Second Wednesday of Advent, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9 -15, 20, Eph: 3-6. 11-12, Lk 1:26-38

In contrast to my reserved brother, my niece is a true extrovert. She shares her opinions, enjoys a great discussion, and is a lifelong learner. At the same time, she upholds our family values of respect, family, humility, and honor. I was thrilled to be present at her wedding. It seemed that all was going well.

On a visit to Chicago, she confided in the fact that twice she was pregnant, yet lost both in the early stages. The doctors could not guarantee if she could ever bring a child to full term. How can a teacher of young children, catechist at her local parish, and godmother to her niece, be denied the joy of motherhood?

It is the Church that has helped her in her grief. She has found support in a network of women with similar situations. She had the courage to share her journey with the family, which offers all the support needed. Finally, she posted a remembrance of her children on Facebook, and found many prayers of support.

The Gospel mentions Elizabeth, once barren, is six months pregnant. Advent is a season of hope. With God, all things are possible. My niece, not knowing how her prayers will be answered, is learning to trust in God,

On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, I honor my niece's faith in God. There is a plan, if only we learn to say "yes".

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