

**Homily – Friday of the First Week of Advent
December 4, 2020 – Pastoral Center**

The first reading, from the prophet Isaiah, speaks of God's promise: On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book; and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel."

We know that Advent is a time of expectation. Are we truly expecting the Son of God, or just someone or something merely good? We should reflect about the significance of our hope. First we need to overcome what the Pope calls *self-referentiality*. Instead of complaining to ourselves about our adversity, we must believe in the promise and cry out to Him. Advent is a good time to pray for miracles!

The Holy Father told the story of a nine-year-old girl whose parents were told that she had only a few hours left to live. "The father, a humble man, a laborer, immediately left the hospital and went to the Shrine of Our Lady in Luján," 45 miles away. When "he arrived around 10 o'clock in the evening, everything was closed, and he grabbed hold of the gate and prayed to Our Lady and struggled in prayer... The man remained like this until five in the morning". He

“prayed, he wept for his daughter, he struggled with God for his daughter through the intercession of Our Lady. Then he returned. He arrived at the hospital at about seven or eight, and went to find his wife. She was crying and the man thought that the girl had died, but the wife said: ‘I don’t understand, I don’t understand... The doctors came and said that they don’t understand what happened’. And the little girl went home”.

If you believe this is possible, you must cry out to the Lord, and struggle with Him – so to speak – like this man and like the two blind men in the Gospel. That is how you pray for miracles! And that is how God teaches us to prepare ourselves for our final moment, when our salvation will depend on our trust in Him as we cry out “have pity on us!”

A sign of such faith is peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” As we pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Mike Bouzigard, we recall precisely his peaceful demeanor. He was a peacemaker.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe make us all peacemakers.