

HOMILY ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

In today's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she would bear a child who would be holy and called Jesus, the Son of God. His words, "**FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD**" have resonated over these thousands of years. These seven words have been the inspiration for many Christians, over time.

The sport company Adidas had an ad years ago – **Impossible Is Nothing**. It was a very inspirational and motivational campaign, reminding people that anything is possible. Reminding us that records and human limitations are meant to be broken. Reminding us that we can do great things. And, in the way that is true for worldly things, this is true in the spiritual realm as well. No matter what we are going through right now, no matter how impossible the situation may seem, no matter how helpless or hopeless we may feel, we should remember this, **NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD**. God's power is infinite. Therefore, we should have faith in Him, His power, and His love for us. May we be inspired to have Faith and hope in God, no matter what the situation may be. The flame of Hope should never go out of our lives for, with hope, each of us can live with Peace, Faith and Love.

I learned through my parents, who had very strong faith, that things do not always go as planned, as hoped. I thought I found my dream job, working as a bank teller at Bank of The Commonwealth. I was working with the public, working my way up to Commercial Teller. Then in 1981, I lost my job due to a calculation error, I was devastated! No bank presidency for me, no seeing my friends and colleagues. My parents both encouraged me to make the most of the opportunity and trust that things would work out. "Say your prayers and keep faith," they said. Mom was saying her rosary and Novenas daily. I found work, but not exactly my dream job. Then I got a job as a cash application clerk, and what I once thought was not what I wanted, became an opportunity for happiness for a lifetime; something beyond my expectations became possible, a career. My parents would not have known it

would work so well but they knew, because of their unwavering faith, that with God all things are possible.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, as we get closer to celebrating the mystery of the true Christmas, let us try to have a positive outlook during these difficult pandemic lingering times. We may miss some gatherings with family and friends, and it will be hard to accept. Instead, think of it as a time of character strengthening, reinforcing our lives as a testimony to the miraculous power of Hope. It is important to have Faith because, when we have faith, we trust in God. When we have Faith, we begin to become familiar with and know God. When we trust God, we can tap into both a fountain of courage and of life-giving hope. The more we get to know God, the more we can understand that nothing is impossible with God.

Henri Nouwen wrote, “***Somewhere we know that without silence, words lose their meaning; that without listening, speaking no longer helps; that without distance, closeness cannot cure.***” Perhaps we should take the time to appreciate the silence, the listening, and the closeness often sensed when we slow our pace, contemplate, pray, open our hearts to what could be possible in the midst of hurt, grief, turmoil, troubles. We can be still and know that God is there with us.

And remember: **NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!**

Peace,

Deacon Don