

Dearest Sisters and young women in formation,

This year the Feast of Blessed James Alberione, which we just celebrated, serves as a “doorway” to the new liturgical year—a “pilgrimage” that starts with Advent and unfolds according to the itinerary offered us by the Word of God, events, activities and days that the Lord gives us.

How many “Advents” we have celebrated in our lives! So many that perhaps by now it has become routine for us.... The four weeks of this season slip by very quickly, while we ourselves run the risk of being sucked into the vortex of our daily apostolic activities and the many things we have to do and think about...



Instead, Advent reminds us of our need to *stop* and open our eyes to the mystery of a God who continually comes, enters our hearts, renews us with his abiding love, gives meaning to our activities and experiences, helps us see the direction in which history is moving and discern his hand at work in it—his providential plan for a world in which it seems the “end times” have already come for a humanity groaning under the burden of innumerable wounds. Advent is a time in which we maintain an *alert watch* for the coming of God, who is drawing ever closer to us and who, because of this, draws us closer to ourselves and to others.

But only those whose hearts are fixed on the Bridegroom, only those who nourish themselves on his Word and, in the Spirit, incessantly cry out, “Come, Lord Jesus! Maranatha!” (Rv. 22: 17; 1 Co. 16:22), are capable of this expectation. And, on his part, he will not delay in responding, “Yes, I am coming soon!” (Rv. 22:20).

Dear sisters and young women, during this time of grace let us lovingly await the God-who-comes. As I suggested at the beginning of the Year of Faith, let us allow the Word to pervade us with all its wealth and to dwell within us. Let us read, meditate, share and proclaim the Word proposed to us by the Advent liturgies, above all the Sunday Gospels, which offer us the light we need to see the “signs” of God: both those in the heavens and those on earth, as well as those to be found in every person and situation, offering us, even in the dead of night, a reassuring beam of hope<sup>1</sup>.

As is by now my custom, I urge you to make the choice to live in a spirit of simplicity and moderation during this season, in consonance with the historico-economic situation we are living on a planetary level. This year, we could use the fruit of our “renunciations” to support Radio Solidariedad, run by our sisters in Anatuya, Argentina. Thank you as of now for your readiness and generosity to do this.

Very best wishes to all of you for an Advent journey made in the company of Mary, the disciple inhabited by the Word, who gave him flesh for the life of the world. In a special way, let us entrust the Holy Land, the land of Jesus, to her, the Daughter of Zion, asking for peace and reconciliation between the Jewish and Palestinian peoples.

With deep affection.

*L. M. Antonietta Bruscati*  
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Superior General

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<sup>1</sup> Our Pauline website [www.paoline.org](http://www.paoline.org) will be posting a weekly reflection and prayer for Advent.