

Dec. 29,2017 Five Ways

I hope each of you had an inspiring Christmas. Here are some insights about Evangelism and Ecumenism as we look forward to the New Year. I borrow them from Fr. Michael Simone, SJ, who has the column in America magazine for each Sunday of the year's readings. First, from the issue for the Third Sunday of Advent (p. 58): "The Advent readings offer Christians a two fold preparation. They help to prepare the hearts of believers for a new encounter with the mystery of the Nativity. They also teach Christ's disciples how to prepare others for a first arrival of Christ in their lives. Just as John the Baptist prepared the world for Christ's light, so we today must reflect the light we see in Christ and be beacons of hope for the world."

Second, from the issue for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (p. 60): "Mary somehow could still sift through the noise and hear the voice of God. She recognized intuitively that God's longed-for salvation was beginning and that she would have a mission in its fulfillment. . . .We too must be equally ready for an answer to our prayers. Whether we pray for ourselves or others, all of us have longings we bring to Christ. As we complete our journey to his crib, let us trust the same grace that enlightened Mary so that we can recognize the fulfillment of those prayers."

Back in our mailing of Sept. 26, there was an attachment on the ecumenical and evangelical dimension of the 50th anniversary of the Charismatic Renewal. At the bottom of this e-mail you will find our Dec. 20 OMI e-letter; a fourth article on Oblates and the Charismatic Renewal is the 4th item. You may see the second, regarding the ministry of our former Northern Province members (Franco-Americans), especially in Haiti, on the MUD website ([www.harrywinter.org](http://www.harrywinter.org)). The first one is also there. The third, concerning our Hispanic Oblates and the Charismatic Renewal, may be found with the other three, on our national website ([www.omiusa.org](http://www.omiusa.org)). Type in "Charismatic Renewal" on the search block and all four will appear.

May the New Year find us closer to Christ, and more able to bring Him to others, and find Him in others!

**Issue: # 245**

**December 20, 2017**

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*Sincerely,*

**Will Shaw**

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