

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 2nd.SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR-B 2023.

PREPARING THE WAY:

It is quite common in Africa whenever a political,religious leader or a visitor is visiting,a lot of preparation out of the normal is done to welcome such person.Flowers,banana trunks,road repairs of potholes which have never been done since the colonial period!Almost everything comes to stand still for this an hours visitor.

Today we are being called to prepare for a very special visitor not by-passing but who will stay with us,**Emmanuel God with us**.How are you going to do the preparations.

In Napa California all has kicked off in high tune,all stores are already overcrowded with shoppers, Christmas trees,lights,cards, a lot of buying is taking place.All the trees,houses backyards are all decorated with Christmas lights,you can drive without light since all places are illuminated with these lights only don't meet with ever alert sheriff who will share with you a ticket!Manger scenes are detected outside houses with big statues of **Mary**,Joseph,shephards,dozen cows and assumed angels.so crowded just like the stores that you may miss to see baby Jesus! What a good preparation, of course presents are being shipped and the post office personnel are on their toes to beat the dateline.So wonderful indeed.

What about our souls?how are we're preparing indeed.

In our first reading the prophet Isaiah(40:1-5,9-11)gives a message of **hope and consolation** to people who were in exile,they were desperate with slim chance of their return to their land,they had lost hope.The prophet is encouraging them there is going to be **second exodus for them** to deliver them from Babylon.He is calling for repentance,**to straighten the highway ways of the God** he is coming, this is the link with the gospel in person of John the Baptist.

John though missing in the great shopping in the manger,is playing a very crucial role in the **call of preparing for this great dignitary in person of Jesus Christ**.He is calling you and me to prepare for the immanent coming of the Saviour by **radical conversion**,he is the

forerunner of Christ. Calling for **end of reign of sin, repentance, fasting, uprightness, cleansing and conversion, thus avoiding the ways of darkness** which will lead to falling and doom, hence conversion is needed. what do we need to straighten today? Each and everyone of us must look into self and see what **potholes needs to be filled, ways which need to be amended, bad, attitudes, behavior, relationships, vocation commitments, jealousy and injustices in the world of today.** We learn a lot from John in today's reading and his life, **commitment to our duties and responsibilities as followers of Christ, self discipline and sacrifice, living what we preach, humility** he recognized that Jesus was more important than him, he stepped aside when Jesus surfaced, thus allowing Him to shine, generosity and above all courage he died a **martyr death in witnessing Christ.**

As we criss cross the malls and the stores for Christmas preparation materially, let give a moment too for our **spiritual shopping and decorations of our ways of life in the middle of this crowded season** our families, friends and fellowship let's also look for **peace and harmony in our hearts and see where we need to put straight by getting rid of the obstacles, through repentance and good works especially during this Christmas** as we pray for **the suffering and war-torn places** that all may experience the **healing grace of christ.**

Let us make our preparation **joyful permanent in welcoming Christ in our lives which is open to all.**

With John the Baptist, Christmas will be not just be an holiday season but A HEALING SEASON as well.