

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 2nd SUNDAY NIF ADVENT YEAR C 2024

ENGINEER JOHN THE BAPTIST-

Coming from one of the greatest athletic country Kenya, it is always good to note the fact that there is always a very important person whenever there is competition. This person is never recognized but he is very important. He runs faster than the competitors, he is phase setters. After a while he disappears from the scenes and he is forgotten. In today's gospel, we are treated to one of these characters of fore-runners by the name of John the Baptist. He came before Jesus to prepare the way for his coming. He set the phase by preaching **repentance, and forgiveness of sins**. His preaching was straight, **making the way straight, leveling the valleys, filling up the mountains and hills, straightening the winding roads, filling the potholes thus making the surface smooth** for Christ. We are not wrong to call him road Engineer John!

John want deep **repentance and renewal of hearts, he challenges us straighten crooked faith, smoothen ragged moral lives, level the hills of pride and fill the valley of failure and omission**. then the Lord May drive without effort into our hearts. we are called to allow Christ into straight running into our heart hearts as he comes either his birth or his second coming. How are you going to prepare this Advent? We must find out what condition is our spiritual road is in. where do we need to amend, straighten, fill up perhaps is so damaged that we need reconstruction through-**penance and other sacraments**. we need this Sunday to add up our voices of preparation to back up the Engineer John.

Our first reading (Baruch 5:1-9) gives **hope and comfort to the desperate** community in Babylonian exile. They had fallen into deep stress, he encourages them to have confidence and assures them God has not forgotten them He is going to **restore them. He is not only going to label the way but also to build a freeway to facilitate their return** and bring them restoration. In our current world, we all need assurance and words of comfort when we are faced with challenges of life, financial constrain, spiritual and health issues. Lack of job and income and in stress too. We must trust in our creator that he will deliver us.

We are called during this second Sunday of advent to look where we need to **repair, straighten, and amend our ways.** Might we have created **hatred, stubbornness, grudge, build resentment, jealousy misunderstanding or friction among others?** The call then during this time is to **repair and amend through recociliation, peaceful understanding, repentance, forgiveness and tolerance.** The all powerful redemptive forgiving powers of Christ are always available to us, once we look for it.

Advent then is a **wonderful time to return to God, reconcile with him and one another, time for Christ forgiveness,** time to look back and repair the damage then a flesh starting to have a personal relationship with Christ. It is a **wake-up call to look into ourselves, redirect our compass, clean our moral glass and reboot our spiritual life thus returning to Christ.**