

ADVENT REFLECTION

DEVOUT AND EXPECTANT DELIGHT

Anyone who has ever had a child remembers when they first found out that they were going to be parents.

Advent is a perfect time when these memories should come to mind and should be shared in the family.

When we were pregnant with our second child I was told by my doctor that my blood work showed I had been exposed to Rubella, a form of measles that can have very serious consequences to a developing fetus.

The doctor explained that the child would be deaf, blind, mentally retarded or all three. He highly recommended a "therapeutic abortion".

When I told my husband his response was, I know you, and I know we will be having this child so that's our answer.

The following day I went to the library and borrowed every book I could find on Rubella.

When my husband returned home from work that day, he asked why all the book.

I said that I thought we should be prepared for whatever lies ahead.

He said to me "Where is your faith? Take the books back, we will be fine and so will the child".

I felt very strongly those words were coming from God, so I did as he asked not opening even one.

On the 5th Sundays of the month our parish did a special blessing for the pregnant Moms or couples. Our oldest child asked me if I was going to get the blessing and I said yes, of course.

But the next time the 5th Sunday of the month came around and the blessing was offered again, my daughter again asked if I was going to get another blessing, because in her words, I needed all the help I could get". I explained to her that I believed we were in God's hands and that when I received the blessing before God gave us his assurance that he'd be with us. That God's blessing is not magic but we need to have faith in Him and we will be fine.

Our child was born two days early and she was a beautiful 7lb 8oz baby 20 1/2 inches long. She could see, she could hear and was and is very bright.

This time of year it is good to ponder the trusting way Mary and Joseph lived out their call to faithfulness. Both saying yes to our Lord and both serving God in the way of His plan. We need to place our trust in the Lord and whatever lies ahead of us, be assured, that the Lord is with us

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