

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEACONS

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of Advent – Year B Power and Success

Deacon Mark Kelly

In his concern for the future, and in his efforts to bring into being the type of future that Christ intends, the Christian cannot go ahead without some assurance, some sense of security. He must have a firm basis for his efforts, a firm belief that his efforts will certainly be effective. Has the Christian been given such an assurance? Is he entitled to believe that his efforts will inevitably bear fruit? The answer is a most definite “Yes!” And, if the further question is asked, “Why this confidence?”, the answer is simply because of Christ and his promise to be with the Church until the end of time.

The point is that the Christian does not necessarily see the results of his efforts. He does not have evidence or proof that he is being effective. It is a matter of faith: he believes it!

In this gospel (*Lk 1:26-38*), the angel Gabriel announces God’s call to Mary. She says “Yes.” Her motivation for that assent is that same faith of her people. Like all Israelites she believes that God will be faithful to his promises and remain with his People. It is not because she has evidence, or after reasoning it out, or making an assessment that she sees that it is worthwhile going along with God’s plan.

We too base our hope, not on the results that are seen and measured, but on the fact of the presence of Christ with us, giving power and success to our daily lives.

*(adapted from Crotty, R. and Manly, G. 1975)*

Wishing all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a (covid-safe) New Year.