

January 1, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in St. Francis and in Christ,

Maranatha

This beautiful word is ringing in my years at this, the end of Advent, and the center of our celebration of the incarnation of our Lord. **Maranatha** is an Aramaic word that means “the Lord is coming” or “come, O Lord.” We believe our Lord spoke Aramaic and this is one word in our scripture that is not translated. And, from all accounts, it only appears once in our scripture at 1 Corinthians 16:22. Our music director called it to our attention in worship through song during all of Advent.

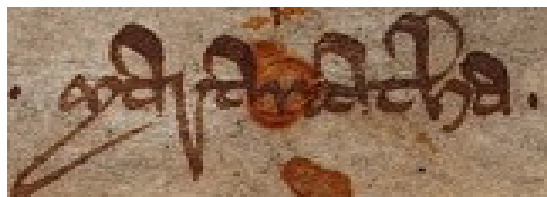
I am sure you share the love of this word’s meaning, our Lord is coming. He came into our world and brought light, light into the darkness of all that was and he changed the whole paradigm of how we can live as a human family. Then he sent us, his disciples, out into the world to make it happen. Now two thousand years later we are still pausing in December to reflect on this miraculous happening. Our God who loved us so much he came to dwell among us and show us how to live. And now, two thousand years later, one does not have to look far to see a cross on the horizon. And now, two thousand years later, he sends us, his disciples, into the world to carry his light into the world.

St. Francis understood this so well. He called us to go from the Gospel to life and life back to the Gospel. He taught us that the Lord came to us and his teachings are recorded there, in the Gospel. Most importantly, he taught us that the Gospel gives form and shape to our lives as it transforms us. Yes, the call to information in the reading, but also to transformation in the understanding. The Lord has come to divinize our hearts and minds and use our transformed selves to serve him.

So, sisters and brothers, as we journey into the servanthood of 2022 that the Lord has put and will continue to put before us, let us encourage each other in our ministries and in our lives. Let us be the light that our Lord called us to be. May our hearts filled with his divine love carry his light into the world. Happy New Year.

Peace and All Good

Patricia Grace, OFS
JPIC Animator



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