

Pastor's Message for November & December 2011

By Rev. Dr. Anthony T. Padovano

A Candle of Hope

Every time we light a candle, we do so in hope.
Any light we bring into deep darkness brings comfort

A candle on a birthday cake symbolizes not only joy
for what we remember but trust that
there will be more candles to light next year.

A candle at the side of someone ill is a reminder
that the patient is not alone.

A candle in a window is a universal sign of welcome.

When people walk at night in a procession with candles,
emotions are strong and expectations
for something better bring reassurance.

Jesus was a candle of hope for all humanity.
His birth was a star in the darkness and
an opening chord in a symphony of bonding

We are moved by the dispelling of darkness on Christmas eve.
We are renewed by the memory of Easter eve
when the deep shadow of death was penetrated
by the light of Easter morning.

As disciples of Christ, we are called to be candles of hope
in a world that is filled with fear.

If every human heart became even a flicker of light
in an often desperate human journey,
we would find our way to a peace beyond all
understanding.

In this winter season, in this Christmas memory,
we light candles with our spirits,
so that the sadness of the living and
the silence of the departed may become
joy in the morning and music in the noonday sun.

Anthony T. Padovano