Monday of the First Week of Advent

Gospel text (*Mt* 8:5-11): When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” He said to him, “I will come and cure him.” The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed (…)." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed (…)"

Advent ("adventus"): God's movement towards mankind

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today the Ecclesial Community is invited, while it prepares to celebrate the great mystery of the Incarnation, to rediscover and deepen its personal relationship with God. The Latin word "adventus" refers to the coming of Christ and highlights God’s movement towards humanity, to which each one is called to respond with the openness and adherence that we appreciate in the Centurion.

And just as God is sovereignly free when He reveals and gives Himself, as He is moved only by love, so the human person is free in giving Him his assent, although it is something that is due: God awaits a response of love. In these days the liturgy presents the Virgin Mary as the perfect model of this response.

—Holy Mary, you, better than anyone else can help us to know, love and adore the son of God incarnated. Join me so that I can prepare myself with sincerity of heart and open-mindedness to recognize in your child of Bethlehem the son of God who came into the world to save us.