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### LIFE MESSAGES FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

The message of today's Scripture is that we should live in the living presence of Jesus every day waiting for his Second Coming. We can experience Christ's living presence in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in our worshiping community in our parish, in our family, in our own souls and in everyone around us. The early Christians experienced it, and that is why the mutual greeting among Christians was not "Hi!" or "Good Morning!" but the Aramaic, "Maran Atha which means "Come, Lord Jesus". This greeting acknowledged Jesus present in each of them and about to return. May God bless us and keep everyone ever prepared for Christ's second coming.

While Christ Jesus changed our relationship with God, we are still flawed human beings. He tells us clearly that we need to keep watch over our faith. Advent is a perfect time to practice our vigilance. We are not just awaiting the coming of the Savior in the celebration of Christmas in Christ's birth. We should be learning to better focus our faith on the enrichment of spiritual gifts that come to us in Jesus.

This Advent season, as we plan making our gifts, I pray that we can think of ways that we can better share our spiritual gifts with others. During this very difficult time, I think of our loved ones who really need our gifts of faith, hope, charity, love, forgiveness, and encouragement - much more than they need chocolates or sweaters. I give thanks for Advent as the time to enrich ourselves in all these ways through the grace of God.

In Christ, Father Macdonald Akuti