

A friend of mine, whom I've lost track of these past few years, spent some time discerning a vocation with the Missionaries of Charity – that is, Mother Teresa's order of contemplative sisters.

My friend is a psychologist, and a very good, prayerful Catholic woman. I value her advice, and find her counsel to be very insightful.

In one conversation, I remember, we were speaking about what made someone sane and insane – crazy or not crazy. And she surprised me when she said,

“You are only sane if you place God at the center of your life. It is crazy to know who Jesus Christ is, and not to make Him the center of our existence.”

In the first reading, the prophet Zephaniah speaks about the rulers of the city who “hear no voice” and who “accept no correction.”

The voice is the “still small voice” of God that constantly calls us to repentance. We can only hear this voice in prayer. The correction is the turning away from our sin and our own will and turning toward the Will of God and life in Christ. We can only accept this correction when we repent of our sins and accept the new life given us in Jesus Christ.

Sin is crazy.

In the Gospel we hear about two sons – one of whom talks a good story, but falls short of what he promised; and the other who refuses to obey, but then thinks better of it and ends up doing what he is asked.

Our society values appearances. The world talks a good story, but falls short of what it promises. Society values lies, avarice, greed, selfishness, envy, lust ... do whatever it takes.

Our society in the world places value on sin.

God is a nice idea, but He's certainly not at the center of our society.

Our society is crazy. The world is insane.

On the other hand, sanity is found in the arms of God. Sanity is found when we place God at the center of our lives, of our very existence. Sanity is found in Jesus Christ, our savior and redeemer.

In this, the Third Week of Advent, let us reflect on how our journey has been going during this Holy Season. And let us make a choice for sanity – let us make a choice to put Christ in the center of our lives.

So that when Christmas comes, Christ can be born in us – and we can be let go all the crazy-talk of the world and society. And rest in God alone.