

Hurry up and wait.

That's what we used to say in the Navy. Rush, rush, rush, rush, rush to get ready ... only to have to sit around until someone more important was ready for whatever we were getting ready.

Hurry up and wait.

At work it might be an ISO 9000 or some other kind of inspection. Fresh paint. Clean shop. Paperwork all in order.

Hurry up and wait.

Or the visit of a favorite relative. Or the dreaded in-laws. Or the long-lost cousins. How do they like their turkey? What kind of cranberry sauce? Do they like light beer or dark? Coke or Pepsi? Did I dust under the beds?

Hurry up and wait.

As we begin the Advent Season, we can read that it is a season of "joyful anticipation." The Fathers of the Church speak of the three comings of Christ – his first as a child on that very first Christmas; his last at the end of time to judge the world. But it's that in-between coming that makes us uncomfortable.

Jesus is coming?

Grampa died in a hospital of cancer. Richie died in a car crash. Gramma died at a very old age in her own bed. Jesus came for them, didn't he.

Hurry up and wait.

Only in the bustle of our own holiday preparations can we really pause for that ultimate reflection. The reflection on our own preparedness for His coming.

Jesus is coming.

What do we do? There is no time or date for His arrival. Do we paint, or clean, or dust? Are there any forms to fill out for Him to look over? What is His favorite beer? Is He rooting for State or U or M? Or Notre Dame? What do we say? What do we get Him? Is He a small ... medium ... large ... or extra-large?

Jesus is coming.

In our own reflection - if that reflection is more than a few seconds - can we finally realize our own lacking ... our own un-sure-ness ... our own confusion. Do we really know what He really wants?

Only in our own realization of our own poverty of spirit ... can we recognize that ... no matter what we think ... no matter what we do ... no matter where we are ...

We have no gift to bring ... pa-rum-pa-pum-pum ... that's fit to give a King ... pa-rum-pa-pum-pum.

As we begin this Advent Season - 2010 ... as we prepare for His coming ... as we approach this altar to receive His Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity ... let us prepare our hearts by realizing that it is HE WHO PREPARES US FOR HIMSELF.

Give yourself to Jesus ... a little more ... each and every day.

He's coming.

Hurry up.

Wait.

Jesus ... is ... coming ... SOON!