

ANIMA FILM THREE: BLAZE

1. In the third week of Advent, the Church emphasizes joy. Did you know that joy is mentioned 56 times in the New Testament alone? God is inviting us to joy. How is joy different from happiness?

(Happiness on an emotional level is the result of external things, like people, circumstances, situation, events, etc. It is often associated with pleasure and highly changeable. Joy, on the other hand, is an internal state of being that is rooted not in the things of this world, but in God. The Catechism teaches: "true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or any human achievement ...or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love" [CCC 1723]. Jesus says: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" [John 15:11].)

2. Who is a joyful person in your life and what do you believe is the source of their joy?

("Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit! So, the more we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives the more joy we will experience and share with others.")

3. Bishop Hying said in this video, "It's not so much that the Church has a mission, but Jesus' mission has a Church." How does this impact your view and relationship with the Church?

(Christians of the first centuries said: "The world was created for the sake of the Church." The Catechism explains the meaning of this saying: "The Church is both the means and the goal of God's plan: prefigured in creation, prepared for in the Old Covenant, founded by the words and actions of Jesus Christ, fulfilled by his redeeming cross and his Resurrection, the Church has been manifested as the mystery of salvation by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. She will be perfected in the glory of Heaven as the assembly of all the redeemed of the earth" [778].)

4. Bishop Hying states: "We are here on earth to fall in love with God". This is what is so striking about the lives of the saints. They fell in love with God and desired him above anything the world could offer. What is one way we could imitate the saints love of God in these final days of Advent?