



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Joy and Patience

A woman of the earth, rooted in a region of vineyards, Sophie was able to understand that creation is a world enlightened by love and she felt called to universal communion. She understood the patience of the winegrower who cares for the vineyard and who revels in the joy of the grape harvest!

With Sophie

"During the grape harvest at the Villa Lante (I believe it was in 1837), after seeing us working hard, the servant of God gathered us around her. As she invited us to sit on the grass like the Carmelites, as she liked to say, she began talking to us about the vineyard and she reminded us of Jesus' words: 'I am the vine and you are the branches (...)' Then, looking at those beautiful bunches of grapes, she invited us to eat them. She enjoyed the fact that we were eating them with so much pleasure; then she asked us, 'Are they tasty? Well, they are, because they have been nourished by the vine.

Our endeavours will be pleasing to Jesus if we are united to Him.' These words seemed to be filled with the Spirit of God, and they were spoken with such gentleness and love that they soothed our souls like balm; and like a blessed dew, they strengthened our desire to be united with Jesus." (*Testimony of Mother Bentivoglio, quoted in Brou, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, pp. 145–146*)

*The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*

(Is 35 : 1-2)

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

(James 5:7-8)

Today in the Church



“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good. (...) Going back to these places is a chance to recover something of their true selves.”

(Laudato Si, 84)

Contemplate and Share

For Sophie, the vineyard was a place of communion with creation and with the living God, and a place that inspired her entire mission.

Which are the places that speak to me of God, that help me to understand myself, and fill me with wonder?

How can we recapture the magic of creation so that we can be more committed to looking after our shared home?

How can we inspire enthusiasm and patience in the people around us so that they start taking concrete action?

Hymn: [Canticle of creation](#) - Dan Schutte

ADVENT WITH MADELEINE
SOPHIE AND JPIC



Marie-Paule Pr  at
RSCJ