

## **ADVENT REFLECTION WEEK ONE: Candle of Faith**

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In Hebrew 11:1 we read "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." On March 8th, 2005 the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and Taco Bell reached an historic agreement that concretely addresses the sub-poverty wages and working conditions of farmworkers and is the first step toward moving the fast-food industry toward a new way of doing business that respects human rights.

When the workers first began to engage Taco Bell in 2000, many people doubted that the CIW, whose members are among the most impoverished workers in America and have no political clout and few legal rights would be able to change the way the fast-food industry does business. But the farmworkers of the CIW had faith that change was not only necessary, it was possible, and they could, despite all the odds, bring it about. Early support for the workers and the boycott came from people of faith who, together with the farmworkers, were ready to work with hope and conviction for that which was not yet seen.

The farmworkers remind us that, by living into a just world whose evidence is not yet seen, we actually contribute to bringing it to birth. During this Advent season, may our faith be imaginative and active as we anticipate Christ's realm of justice by living as if it has already arrived!