

ADVENT REFLECTION WEEK III: Candle of Love

By Francisca Cortez, Coalition of Immokalee Workers

This is a time of happiness and peace in our hearts, when we give love to our loved ones. But, there are also moments of nostalgia and desperation in our hearts, even though we know that Christmas is coming and that peace shall reign.

For us, the farmworkers, we continue to work hard, struggling to achieve peace and harmony. During this season, we find ourselves again without our loved ones that we left behind to come to work in this land to better our lives. But instead, we found that in this land, there is no respect for our dignity.

Every one of us must walk step by step because, otherwise, we do not know what we may trip over. Sometimes, it is sickness because of our long hours of work. Still, you think of your family you left behind and continue walking forward without looking back, although we are always thinking of our loved ones.

The Lord, our Savior, will soon come to be with us. God says to share what little you have with the poor so that they may eat. In faith, we are confident that soon the good news will come, including a dignified life of peace, happiness, and tranquility for all farmworkers.

We do not demand more than what is set for us, only what we deserve as human beings. And the love of Jesus Christ will always reign in our hearts because he chooses to walk with each of us.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Amen.