**ADVENT WREATH 2018 - THE WAY OF GOD IS OUR WAY**

**FOURTH ADVENT SUNDAY:**

**BE IN CHARGE OF THE INNOCENTS**

**Song:** In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, in the name of the Holy Spirit. God blessed me. (2)

**Guide:** Finally, the 14th year of the reign of Emperor Augustus, when in the whole world there was a universal Peace, 2018 years ago, in Bethlehem of Judah, then occupied by the Romans, in a manger, because He had no place in the inn, of Mary Virgin, spouse of Joseph, from the house and family of David, was born Jesus, eternal God, Son of the Father, and true man, called Messiah, who is the Savior that men expected. He is the Word that enlightens every man, through Him all things were created at the beginning; He, who is the way, the truth and the life.

**Reading:** *At that time a decree of the emperor Augustus was issued, ordering the whole world to register in a census. Everyone went to register, each one in their city. Joseph went up from Nazareth, city of Galilee, to the City of David in Judea, called Bethlehem to register with Mary, his wife, who was pregnant. While there, the time of childbirth arrived and she gave birth to her firstborn son.* Lk 2:1ff.

**Guide:** The prophets, especially Isaiah and John the Baptist, represent the flame of hope maintained until the arrival of the promised Messiah. In these days with their words they have sharpened our ears, they have cleaned our eyes and, above all, they have brought our hearts closer to God's, awakening in each one the prophecy that was bequeathed to us in our Founders and first Fraternities: "to welcome and serve those in need". They have already crossed the threshold of the promise to start, together with the Virgin Mary, a new way of recognizing the newborn God, incarnated in the innocents.

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE:** (A Sister lights the fourth candle).

**Guide 2:** Mary and Joseph, for their faith, hope and charity, have overcome the difficulties. There is no rejection, no cold, no darkness or discomfort that can separate them from the love that is born. They are the first blessed; and God does not find a better place to be born than that manger, because there was also the human tenderness that welcomes Him. May when lighting the fourth candle, we be able to understand the excessiveness of God's love that assumes the fragility of a child.

**All the Sisters:** O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who invites us to live your mystery, help us to be always with you, strength for the innocent; peace and light in our Community, in our families, in our world. Amen.

**Advent Song about the Virgin Mary.**