ADVENT 2026 · WALKING WITH MARY

Threads of Hope

The journey over four weeks and a Christmas to knit together fellowship with Mary.



Week 1
midnight-blue thread

Week 2
green thread

Week 3
pink thread

Week 4
purple thread

Christmas
golden thread

"Charity made hospitality, with everyone, and in a special way with the poorest, the neediest and those who have no voice."

CHARISMATIC IDENTITY Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne · Mother Ràfols and Father Juan Bonal.

HCSA – ZARAGOZA

THE IDEA

Each week, a new thread

Each group adds a thread to a common fabric, accompanying Mary, according to an ancient tradition (the Protoevangelium of James, an apocryphal text, and much of the iconography of the Annunciation) she was spinning when she received the angel's announcement.



1

Listen

A gesture of Mary in the Gospel.



2

Spin

A brief moment of silence, sharing or dialogue about this word.



3

Tie

A concrete gesture of hospitality toward someone who has no voice, and a thread is tied to the fabric.

WHAT MAKES IT NEW

- Advent becomes something you can watch grow: at Christmas there is a fabric made by all of us.
- Each thread is a genuine commitment, not just a reflection, and is linked to the anchor phrase of hospitality.

MATERIALS

- Clothesline. Set it up at the place of celebration, where we will gather throughout the Advent.
- Balls of blue, green, red, purple and orange wool. Each week, everyone will be given a piece of wool about 50 cm long, to hang on the clothesline. At the end of Advent, we will use the wool to make the tapestry.

NEW A prophetic fabric

Weaving is a prophetic act: it proclaims that fraternity is possible and denounces whatever unravels it. Mary did this in the Magnificat when she sang that God brings down the mighty from their thrones and lifts up the lowly (Lk 1:52). That is why each week ends with a prophetic sign: one sentence that proclaims and another that denounces.

Each weekly sheet features four new elements: a prophetic sign, a minute-by-minute script, a visible gesture and the prayer of the week.

And at the end of the guide, the living fabric shared among the different settings.

CHARISMATIC IDENTITY Weaving with the roots of Saint Anne

A fabric that already existed: on 28 December 1804, twelve women and twelve men along with Mother María Ràfols and Father Juan Bonal, arrived at the Hospital of Our Lady of Grace (Zaragoza). Motto: “house of the sick of the city and of the world”.

Threads of the charism: humility, hospitality and heroism. To weave fraternity is to weave our charism.

WEEK 1 · NOVEMBER 29

Listening walk

Walking in silence · midnight-blue thread

SCENE OF MARY

The Annunciation: Mary listens

Lk 1:26-38

WORD OF THE CALENDAR

Reverent listening

The thread that knows how to wait

HOW IT IS LIVED

1 · Listen

Read Lk 1:26-38 slowly and keep two minutes of silence.

2 · Spin

Go out for a 10-minute walk; note down or draw three sounds you have heard.

3 · Tie

Tie the blue thread on the clothesline and carry in your heart the name of the person you want to listen to this week.

NEW Contributions of the week

Prophetic sign

We proclaim: that every person has something to say and deserves to be listened to.

We denounce: the noise that silences those who have no voice.

20-minute script

0–2 · Welcome and silence
2–5 · Reading of Lk 1:26-38
5–15 · Listening walk
15–20 · Sharing and to tie the thread

Visible gesture

Put up a sign that says “Here we listen to you.”

Look for a person who wants to be heard.

Prayer of the week

Mary, woman of listening, teach us to be silent so that we may hear the voice of those who have no voice. May our waiting be attentive. Amen.

CHARISMATIC IDENTITY Listening to those who have no voice

In our roots: Father Juan Bonal: long hours in the confessional listening, forgiving and giving peace.

Guiding principle: *“listening to the cries of humanity, especially of the poorest”* (Charismatic Identity).

To ask ourselves: Who don’t we listen to at home or at work?

WEEK 2 · DECEMBER 6

Clothesline of questions & yes

Writing · green thread

SCENE OF MARY

"How can this be?": Mary questions and says, Yes

Lk 1:34-38

WORDS OF THE CALENDAR

Freedom · Dialogue

The open loom, a bridge of threads

HOW IT IS LIVED

1 · Listen

Read Lk 1:34-38: Mary questions before saying yes.

2 · Spin

On one card, a question that I don't dare to ask; on another, a possible yes. They are hung on the clothline and each one answers a question asked by someone else.

3 · Tie

To commit yourself to resuming a pending conversation.

To tie the green thread on the clothesline.

NEW Contributions of the week

Prophetic sign

We proclaim: that faith is lived in freedom, by asking questions and saying yes.

We denounce: the imposed silences and the conversations that no one dares to resume.

20-minute script

0–3 · Welcome and reading of Lk 1:34-38
3–10 · Writing questions and yeses
10–17 · Hang up, read another's, reply
17–20 · Commitment and green thread

Visible gesture

Place a sign in a visible spot with the question: "What would you like to say?"

Respond freely, in a loud voice.

Prayer of the week

Mary, you questioned and said yes in freedom. Give us courage to speak truthfully and to let others speak. May we weave bridges where there is silence. Amen.

CHARISMATIC IDENTITY Asking questions and saying yes in freedom

In our roots: Mother Ràfols, President of the Confraternity at 23; a woman of yes.

Guiding principle: *"spaces where truth, freedom, dialogue, joy and forgiveness can be breathed"* (Everything from Fraternity).

To ask ourselves: Which "yes" does the charism ask of me today?

WEEK 3 · DECEMBER 13

The song of joy

Listening and singing · pink thread

SCENE OF MARY

The Visitation and the Magnificat

Lk 1:39-56

WORDS OF THE CALENDAR

Joy · Compassion

The color of the fabric

HOW IT IS LIVED

1 · Listen

Read Lk 1:39-56 and sing or listen to the Magnificat.

2 · Spin

Each person brings one minute of a song that gives them back their joy and says to whom they would dedicate it; together they make up the fabric list.

3 · Tie

Choose a person who is alone or suffering; send them the song or visit them.

To tie the pink thread on the clothesline.

NEW Contributions of the week

Prophetic sign

We proclaim: the joy of the Magnificat: God looks upon lowliness and lifts up the humble.

We denounce: the joy that can be bought and the loneliness that no one visits.

20-minute script

0–3 · Welcome and lighting the pink thread

3–8 · Magnificat, read or sung

8–15 · Songs and dedications

15–20 · Choosing the person and tying

Visible gesture

Share the selected song and/or send it, dedicating it to someone who is alone.

Prayer of the week

Mary, you sang that God lifts up the humble. May our joy forget no one and reach first to those who are alone. Amen.

CHARISMATIC IDENTITY Joy and compassion that go out to meet others

In our roots: Mother Ràfols, serene and joyful, wanted to "burn, not shine": charity without frontiers.

Guiding principle: *"to be a reflection of His love, mercy and compassion... attentive to the cries of the poor"* (Incarnate Spirituality).

To ask ourselves: Who is alone near to us, and what gesture of hospitality do we bring them?

WEEK 4 · DECEMBER 20

The empty chair

Watching a film or thinking about a situation · purple thread

SCENE OF MARY

Mary and Joseph on the way to Bethlehem

Lk 2:1-7

WORD OF THE CALENDAR

Inclusion

The chair that is always missing

HOW IT IS LIVED

1 · Listen

Read Lk 2:1-7: “there was no room for them.”

2 · Spin

Think of a real situation in your surroundings: who was left without a place today?

3 · Tie

Place an empty chair and write the name of the person for whom it is being prepared.

To tie the purple thread on the clothesline

NEW Contributions of the week

Prophetic sign

We proclaim: that in the house of God there is always room for one more.

We denounce: the closed doors and the “there’s no room” attitudes of today: migrants, homeless, or elderly people who are alone.

20-minute script

0–3 · Welcome and chair in plain sight
3–5 · Reading of Lk 2:1-7
5–17 · Film scene or real-life situation
17–20 · Name on the chair and purple thread

Visible gesture

An empty chair with a sign saying “Reserved for you” in a visible place.

Invite a specific person to have a coffee.

Prayer of the week

Mary and Joseph, you who knocked on closed doors, teach us to open ours. May no chair remain empty because of our indifference. Amen.

CHARISMATIC IDENTITY

A chair for everyone

In our roots: We were born for those who had no place; Mother Ràfols and Father Juan always kept a place available for whoever lacked one.

Guiding principle: *“a universal family in which no one is excluded”* (Charismatic Identity). Project with FSA laity: migration.

To ask ourselves: Who is left without a place in our surroundings today, and what door do we open?

CHRISTMAS

Prayer of care

Praying with the fabric · golden thread

SCENE OF MARY

The birth: Mary cares for the Child

Lk 2:6-7

WORD OF THE CALENDAR

Care

The last thread… and the first

HOW IT IS LIVED

1 · Listen

Read Lk 2:6-7 in a low voice.

2 · Spin

Think of someone in your heart whom you want to care for.

3 · Tie

Knot the threads, bless the fabric and place it beside the nativity scene.

NEW Contributions of the week

Prophetic sign

We proclaim: that God becomes fragile and places His life in our hands.

We denounce: the throwaway culture, which excludes the most vulnerable.

15-minute script

0–3 · Welcome, with the fabric at the center

3–6 · Reading of Lk 2:6-7

6–12 · Prayer: touching a thread and naming

12–15 · Tie, bless and keep

Visible gesture

Together we tie the threads, making the fabric for the nativity scene.

Everyone receives a small gift (a good-deeds counter, a bracelet, a little cross…)

Prayer of the week

Mary, you wrapped the Child with tenderness. Teach us to care for fragile life and to protect it to the very end. May our hands be your fabric. Amen.

CHARISMATIC IDENTITY Caring with attention with detail and tenderness

In our roots: Caring is the heart of our history: each person "with the greatest care, 'in every detail and with all love'".

Guiding principle: *"to live with compassion, empathy and attention to detail"* and to create "safe spaces" where dignity is respected (Care).

To ask ourselves: Whom do I want to care for, in every detail, this Christmas?