

## Third Sunday of Advent – December 14, 2025

### DRF Homily for Bishop William Medley

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This weekend's first two readings remind us of the patience and years of faithfulness that preceded the answer to John the Baptist's famous question from prison, "Are you the one - or should we look for another?" It is a question we can all relate to when we experience questions of faith.

And then Jesus answers simply, yet powerfully, *"Go and tell John what you hear and see — the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."*

Jesus uses this powerful moment to teach us that his followers are people of action. They are healers. They have a heart for the marginalized. This Gospel reminds us that Christ's presence brings signs of mercy, healing, and hope — through real people doing real work in the name of God. The Good News is not an abstract message but a living testimony of love, compassion, and generosity.

We just completed a campaign that shows our love and care for the senior priests who have served our diocese for many years. We continue to evangelize through Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, which served a record number of 500 young people last year, as well as hosting multiple adult retreats. We financially support efforts that enrich marriages, educate seminarians, and support missions here and abroad. We provide resources for parish religious education and our Catholic schools. The list goes on and on, and we try to capture and report on these efforts through the accountability report we publish each summer through The Western Kentucky Catholic. Your gift to the Disciples Response Fund builds an important partnership with all these efforts.

Seeing the fruits of these ministries is what inspires me to ask for your financial generosity. When asked "Are we the one" I want to continue pointing to all the works we are doing throughout western Kentucky to heal, teach and evangelize.

As we journey toward Christmas, may God continue to bless your families during this Advent season, and may we continue to proclaim the Good News to all we encounter.

Blessings in Christ,

Bishop William Medley.