

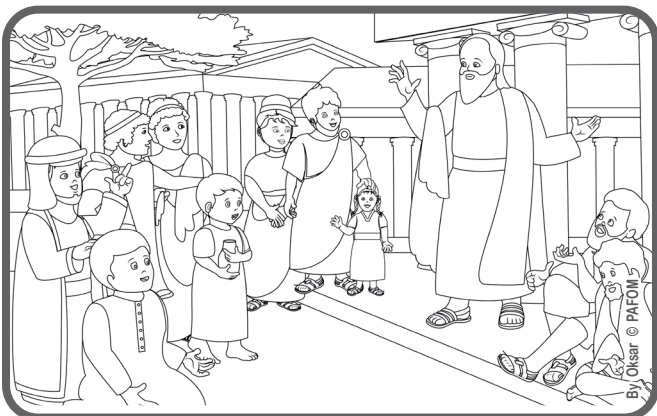
Jesus came on earth to give us joy



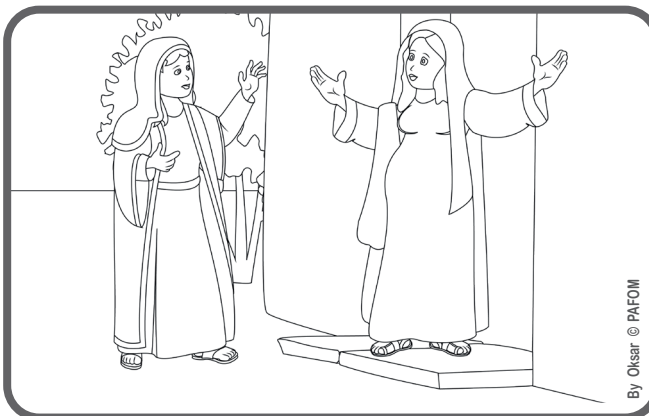
focolare
movement

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1Thes 5:16-18)

(From the Liturgy of the Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Advent)



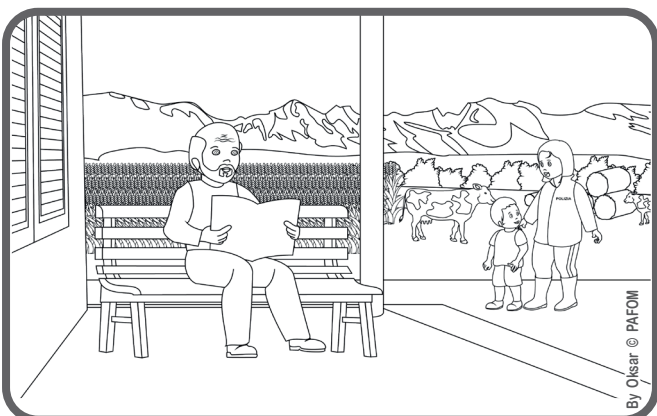
In his letters to the first Christian communities, the Apostle Paul always reminded everyone that ever since Jesus came on earth, we have many reasons to thank God and to always be joyful.



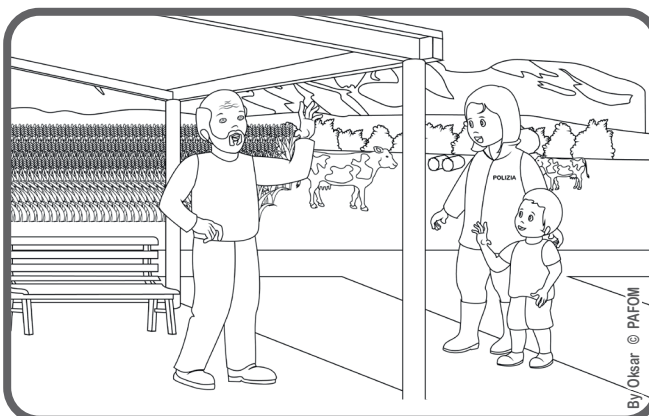
Mary, the mother of Jesus, had understood this very well. When she went to see her cousin, Elizabeth, who was also expecting a baby, she felt her heart full of joy because of all the wonderful things that would happen!



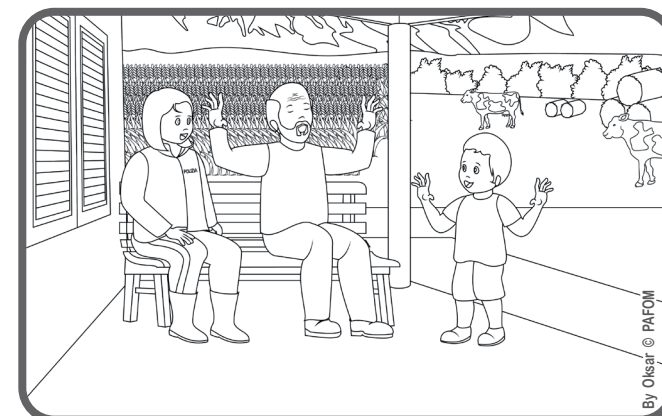
Yes, because she would give birth to Jesus, who would bring peace and justice to the world. He would help the poor people and those who were hungry, and send away the rich and powerful people with nothing. Mary welcomed Jesus and because of her “yes,” God did great things.



Riccardo lives in a town near Milan in Italy. When he goes shopping with his mom, he often sees an elderly gentleman sitting on the porch in front of his house.



Every time Riccardo goes by, this man says a big “Hello!” to him. He has a nice face, but he looks sad. A few days later, when he said “Hello!” again, Riccardo thought to himself: “I wonder if he feels lonely and wants some company.”



So one afternoon, instead of going to play with his friends, he asked his mother to take him to that man’s house and they stayed and talked to him for a long time. The man was really very happy!!