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The word Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which means an arrival. The Advent Season is the first part of the liturgical year and contains the four Sundays before the Nativity of the Lord. It is a period of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The symbol of the Advent season is the Advent wreath with four candles, which we gradually ignite during the four Sundays of the Advent. During this time, we should prepare our hearts for God's grace that we may receive it in the Sacraments. Our whole life should be in some sense an "Advent Season" because we should always be in a continuous and vigilant expectation of the final coming of Jesus Christ. Dear fellow Branch Officers and Members of the Chicago District FCSLA, I am praying for us that during this Advent season we will be able to prepare our hearts well for the joyful coming of Jesus Christ.

