

The abode where the jackals lurk will be a march for the reed and papyrus.
A highway will be there, called the holy way;
No one unclean may pass over it, nor fools go astray on it.
No lion will be there, nor beast of prey go up to be met upon it.
It is for those with a journey to make, and on it the redeemed will walk.
Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing,
Crowned with everlasting joy;
They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and morning will flee.
(Is. 35:1-10)

Silent or communal reflection:

Can I/we name the injustices that exist close to me/us? What and where are they?

What helps us to speak out with courage as our Dominican brothers did?
What, at times, inhibits us?

What am I/ we doing now to make the flowers of justice bloom in my own area?
In the United States? In the world?

As a community are we doing all that we can to alleviate the injustices around us?

Petitions: For those who need your healing power,
Help us to bring your healing power to them.

For those who are blind to the injustices around them,
Help us to assist them in opening their eyes.

For those who are fearful of what other might say or do,
Help us to wipe away that fear with our courage.

For those who resist your message of peace and justice,
Help us to shout out that message with our actions.

(Other petitions maybe added.)

Closing Prayer:

God of every good gift, you created in us the need for food and drink, shelter and what we need to satisfy our human hungers. You ask only gratitude in return. But in every age, greed and envy lead us to forget your loving graces that call us to share what we have with those who have not. You sent your prophets to speak your word and call us back to the covenant we freely made with you. Rouse up in us the spirit of your love. Teach us again to share our bread, our homes our love with all who are in need. Teach us again to remember those who are victims of injustices of any kind, and change our hearts so we may be vessels of the justice you so graciously with for all humankind. We ask this through Christ, with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2011

500th Anniversary Prayer for Advent

Sr. Pat DeMarco, OP

Hymn: Cry of the Poor (or something similar)

Preparation: Today, and throughout this week, we keep in mind all those who are captive in any way to fear --- fear of poverty, of deportation, of loss of job or home, of war, of hunger, of homelessness --- and we pray for them that they may soon experience lasting peace and justice. Let us keep them present in our minds and hearts as we carry them in prayer.

Prayer: O gracious God, you are the hope of all who suffer in any way. You raised up your Son from the power of death and so gave all humanity a reason to hope. We remember all those who are in slavery and oppression of any kind --- those who are far from us and those in our own neighborhoods. Help us to hear not only with our ears, but with our hearts also. Help us to hear their cries and have those cries touch our hearts so we may help break the chains of human suffering and lead each other in peace. We ask this through Jesus, our Brother. Amen

Canticle:

This is not the time for despair; it is the time for celebration!

Jesus has come; he is present with us amidst the trials
and tribulations of this tempestuous world.

He is going to come again and to gather together his faithful followers
into the fully revealed and eternally reigning Kingdom of God.

Sorrow will turn to joy, night into day.
Tears will give way to laughter; ugliness will yield to beauty.

Wars will cease and peace shall encompass people
and nations, and all the world will recognize
and give honor to the eternal kingdom of our Lord.

It is on this great day that the suffering martyrs,
the struggling saints, the priests and prophets,
servants and disciples of all ages
shall be united together to sing their praises
to their eternal Savior and King.

Words cannot describe it -- this fantastic event about to take place.
but God's faithful children --- clothed in his righteousness ---
can believe it and hope for it, and ready themselves for it.
For it will happen.

And all the pain and suffering than encompassed them in this world
Will be forgotten in the glorious revelation of Christ in the world to come.
Let us begin the celebration even now!

Revelation

Reading I: In 1510, the first Dominicans arrived in what is now the Dominican Republic. They came to tend to the spiritual needs of those who had come before and to evangelize the natives who occupied the island long before the Spaniards. They very soon became aware of the injustices and abuses inflicted on those who land it was by those who sought to take it, and their dignity, from them.

After much prayer and communal reflection, the friars decided to publically denounce the injustices they were witnessing. They did so in a sermon written by the entire community and delivered by Antonio de Montesinos.

"I am the voice of Christ crying in the desert of this island, therefore, it is right that you listen attentively. All of you are in mortal sin and in it you live and will die for the cruelty with which you treat these innocent people, tell me, by what right or justice do you keep these Indians in such cruel and horrible servitude? By what authority have you declared such detestable wars on this people who were living, calmly and peacefully on their lands, where you have allowed and infinite number of them to be consumed in their sickness, resulting in death and destruction never heard of before? Through the excessive work you demand of them, they fall ill and die, or rather, you kill them with your desire to extract and acquire gold every day. And what do you care if someone instructs them in the faith and that they know their God and Creator, are baptized, attend Mass, keep holy days and Sundays? Are these not men (sic)? Have they not rational souls? Are you not bound to love them as you love yourselves? This, do you not understand? This, do you not feel? Are you in such a profound sleep that you are lethargic? Be certain that in such a state as you are, you can no more be saved than the Moors or Turks who lack and do not want the faith of Jesus Christ."

Silent Reflection:

Reading II:

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
The will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of
Carmel and Sharon;
They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak,
Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God, he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense he comes to save you.
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared;
Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.
Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe.
The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs
of water;