

# DOMINICAN MONTH OF PEACE

2024



HAITI

December 1 | 2024  
January 1 | 2025



**Let Us Commit  
to Peace  
and Human Dignity**



HOMÉLIE

**December 8**

**2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C**

**Homily Theme:**

**In the midst of the  
world's vengeance,**

**prepare the way for the pilgrims of hope (Pope  
Francis) where Christ Jesus will come**

*If we are lost in the desert, make the gospel live because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life! If the world's paths are winding, proclaim the path that does not lead from life to death, but Jesus who is the way from the death man inflicts on man to true life, resurrection, and eternal life!*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, on October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus arrived in Guanahani where the natives would receive him with the “red carpet”. The next day, October 13, 1492, a first Mass was celebrated in this “New World”. The natives had no idea of the character of the Conquistadors and that their paradise would soon be lost. The island was renamed San Salvador (El Salvador). Less than two months later, on December 5, 1492, Columbus landed in Ayti Kiskeya. And “troubles on the island began” with this first “landing” or occupation.

The fourth week of Advent will last only three days. We are therefore almost halfway through our pilgrimage towards Christmas.

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Are we pilgrims of hope at the dawn of this Jubilee Year 2025? Pope Francis challenges us again: “In the midst of the world’s history of vengeance, prepare the way for the pilgrims of hope where Christ Jesus will come.”

Next Sunday, the third candle of joy will shine on the Advent wreath. Priests and deacons will be allowed to wear the traditional “rose-colored” vestments reserved for “Gaudete” Sunday – Latin for rejoicing. Who would dare speak of rejoicing in today’s Haiti and so many other parts of the world?

Whether or not the clergy wear their colorful vestments, Jesus challenges us to avoid “the counsel of the wicked” who criticized his words of wisdom and good deeds. This challenge reminds me of the late Brother Philippe, FIC, a professor of philosophy, who often distinguished between a critical mind and a negative mind. The former tries to discern the truth by listening, while the latter is more inclined to criticize, to reject the arguments of others, whether valid or not.

During this Dominican Month of Peace and after the choice of Haiti as the host country, no member of the Dominican family in this “singular little country” can be satisfied with listening to Jesus. We must follow him in order to “have the light of life.” We are challenged to travel this Advent path in a spirit of solidarity. This is the time to keep our hearts and minds open to the words of Jesus. We will then be blessed by the Prince of Peace and we will learn to discern when to rejoice, when to weep, to strive to be more like him. In doing so, we can become a source of comfort and joy to the patient people of Haiti and to those who suffer in spirit or body.

Brothers and sisters, let us remember Bartolomé de Las Casas, a Spanish historian, missionary who became a brother of the Order; He was perhaps the first priest ordained in the “New World” in 1510. If it is true that he accompanied Columbus on his third voyage (1498), the Dominicans closely followed the Franciscans in the “New World.” Las Casas reported to us a testimony of a prophetic speech by friar Antonio de Montesinos on this island, part of eastern Haiti. [The latter] had already denounced the cruelty, the tyranny towards the natives of this land. We are invited not only to listen to the cry of the Haitian people, but also to be aware of the gravity of their situation and to denounce the silence and hypocrisy of the major international bodies in decision-making towards this people who suffer from atrocities, violence, rapes, murders, kidnappings, forced displacements, etc.

Even today, the voice of Montesinos cries out, “Are not Haitians human beings too?” Our leaders, past and present, also have their share of responsibilities.

Brothers and sisters, Las Casas, Montesinos and so many other Dominican brothers and sisters were pilgrims of hope in Haiti and elsewhere. They were not perfect, but they did their best. And what do we do, because humanity is in the grip of suffering?

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Five centuries later, where are we? Landings followed by deadly occupations have not stopped. Have we helped prepare the way for the pilgrims of hope? Can we better share the Gospel of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, in our spheres of action? It is up to each member of the Dominican family to provide an answer to these questions day after day, and not only during the Dominican Month of Peace.

**Brother Victor Laroche, O.P..**

### Prayer Intentions

1. **On December 5, 1492, Columbus landed in Ayti Kiskeya, marking the beginning of the island's trials.**

Lord, send Your Holy Spirit to enlighten and inflame all those who bear responsibility in the Universal Church and in Haiti, especially the Pope, the bishops, and all committed laypersons. May they truly work in truth for the freedom that God grants to every person on earth, especially the Haitian people. Lord, we pray to You.

2. **"At the heart of the world's revenge-filled history, we must prepare the way for the pilgrims of hope where Christ Jesus will come," says Pope Francis.**

Lord, dwell in the hearts of all those who govern the world, particularly in Haiti. Shine Your light upon them so they may become aware of the vulnerability and suffering of this people who can no longer endure the violence inflicted upon them despite their innocence. May they finally work for unity and peace. Lord, we pray to You.

3. **Who would dare speak of rejoicing in today's Haiti?**

Lord, like many regions of the world, Haiti is sick in spirit and body and cannot rejoice. Its suffering stems from the murderous bullets of armed gangs, insecurity, rape, kidnapping, dark and infernal spirits, malnutrition, corruption, and deprivation of basic needs. You, who healed all who suffered, in Your mercy, breathe life into this people so they may regain spiritual health and human dignity, as all other nations of the world have. Lord, we pray to You.



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#### 4. **Wrap Yourself in the mantle of God's justice.**

Lord, in Your coming to earth, have mercy on the Haitian people, who thirst for justice. In Your infinite mercy, save the country from the injustice that has gnawed at it internally and externally for so many years, so that equality and fraternal solidarity may finally reign, in season and out of season. Lord, we pray to You.

#### 5. **Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

Lord, look kindly upon all the Christian communities dedicated to evangelization and raising awareness among the people. May they be filled with Your strength to continue advocating for Haiti without personal interests, hypocrisy, or malice. May they work in truth so that a new Haiti may emerge. Lord, we pray to You

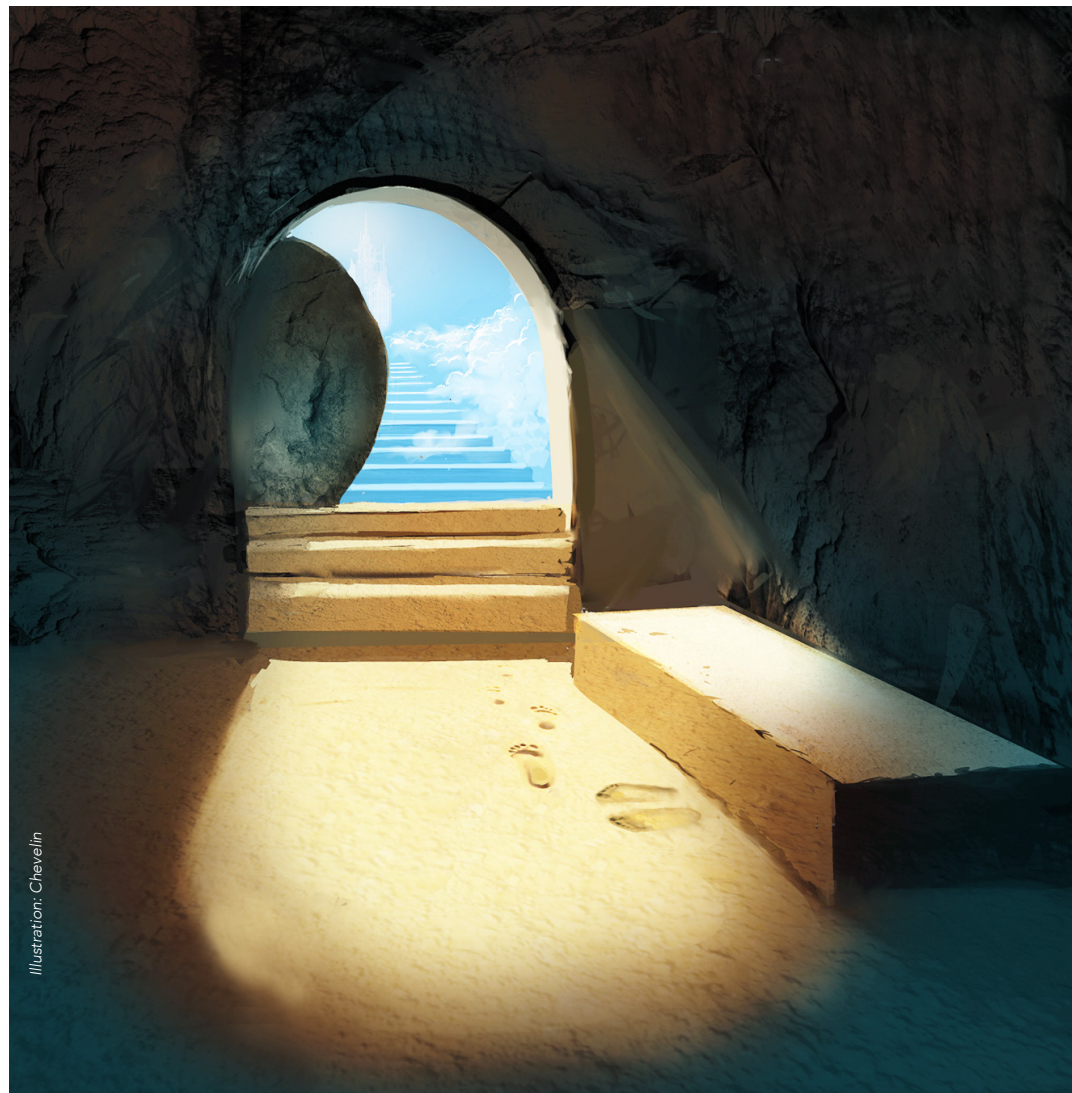


Illustration: Chevelin