

LIVING LIVES COMMITTED TO JUSTICE,
PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY
OF CREATION



Committed To Justice, Peace, the Integrity of Creation: Church/World Dimension

We JOURNEY together as a Congregation, as a Church, that the Reign of God proclaimed by Jesus might be revealed in us and through us to the world. Little by little, we are being transformed and converted into new ways of responding to the invitation of God expressed in our PRIORITIES. This reflection invites us to consider God present and ACTIVE in our history: personal, family, communal and global. It moves us to enter more deeply into the grace we desire. May this desire grow and be transformed into life-giving action on behalf of JUSTICE for our CHURCH AND WORLD.

GRACE OF THE PRAYER:

Lord, we pray – as your Church – that we might “hunger and thirst for justice” and live and act as true peacemakers.

[Mt. 5:6, 9]

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

A. SCRIPTURE:

Zech. 8:12

Promise of peace and justice

Mk. 4:26-31

Reign of God as mustard seed

Rom. 12:14-21

Overcome evil with good

Rom. 14:17

Reign of God is justice, peace, joy

B. CONGREGATIONAL TEXTS:

Claudine understood both the needs of the poor and the TREASURE hidden in every person. She entered into this reality and began to dream of humanizing structures . . . ways of creating stable domestic structures that would thrive. She understood well that there is no personal or social growth without the ability to enter realistically and creatively those areas of conflict and pain in one's life. One could say that she thought globally, but acted locally.

With his death and resurrection, Christ began to build the community of believers. Through her experience of the paschal mystery, Claudine was strengthened in her call to follow Jesus in community. She knew this was the way for her to realize God's dream and her desire expressed in our motto: PRAISED FOR EVER BE JESUS AND MARY!

[Translation of an excerpt in M. Campillo, RJM, "*Afectada por la realidad y urgida por el deseo.*"]

Our apostolic mission, which flows from zeal nourished by prayer, arouses within us a desire to bring to the Lord a world in need of redemption. As we encounter both God and others in one and the same action, we seek to share the deep feelings of the Heart of Christ: 'I have come to cast fire upon the earth and how I wish it were blazing already!' [Lk.12:49]

RJM Constitutions, #47

C. CONTEMPORARY TEXTS FOR REFLECTION:

“Our task as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians, following Christ and shaping our world, is to announce redemption to a world that has discovered it is fallen, to announce healing to a world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to a world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion.

The gospel of Jesus points us and indeed urges us to be at the leading edge of the whole culture . . . a worldview that will mount the historically-rooted Christian challenge to both modernity and postmodernity, leading the way with joy and humor and gentleness and good judgment and true wisdom. I believe if we face the question, "if not now, then when?" if we are grasped by this vision we may also hear the question, "if not us, then who?" And if the gospel of Jesus is not the key to this task, then what is?"

[N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*]

We must recognize that if part of our baptized people lack a sense of belonging to the Church, this is due to certain structures and the occasional unwelcoming atmosphere of some of our parishes and communities, or to a bureaucratic way of dealing with problems, be they simple or complex, in the lives of our people

Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, #63].

I prefer a Church that is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and clinging to its own security [Ibid., #49].

Today, more than ever, we need to recognize Christ in suffering and ugliness, in the depth of all things as in the Passover, reconciling creation through Himself and renewing the Earth. Though powerless, we draw strength through Christ's presence and with dignity experience meaning and love. 'Seeing God in all things 'calls us into the mystical relation with all creation. . . .

We recognize the wounded and broken world and humbly acknowledge our part; yet this is an invitation to respond, to be a healing presence full of care and dignity in places where the truth and joy of life are diminishing.

[“Healing a Broken World,” [SJ Special Report on Ecology, Rome,2011]]

IMAGINATION EXERCISE/COLLOQUY:

Take some time to have a conversation with Jesus, as a friend speaks to a friend. . . speak about what has arisen in you from reading, reflecting, sharing on this material, as well as what came up in the silence. Share with him simply what your dreams, desires, fears or anticipations might be. Offer these to the Lord that he might confirm in you what he desires your life to be.

EXAMEN OF THE PRAYER:

Ask yourself: why is there no peace? No justice? What is a source of hope for the Church and world, and what is our mission to bear that hope? As a follower of Christ, within the Church, how open am I to what happens in the world? How do I live as a contemplative in action? Do we as Church seek to influence structures to comply with Gospel values?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear God, open our eyes to the needs of all; keep our service of others faithful to the example and command of Christ. Let your Church be a living witness to truth and freedom, to justice and peace, that all people may be lifted up by the hope of a world made new. Amen.