



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WITH HEARTS PREPARED

Praying, Talking, and Living
God's Word during Advent

PEACE

PRAYING WITH GOD'S WORD

Leader:

We begin our time together, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader:

God of peace, our world is filled with commercial images of Christmas. The lights and bright decorations remind us also of the true Light that we look forward to during Advent. Help us to remember that Advent is an important time of preparation, a time to wait quietly as we soon celebrate the birth of Jesus.

All: Amen.

1st Reader:

Blessed Mother Teresa was a great model of what it meant to be a person who worked for peace in the world. The following is an excerpt from Professor John Sanness who spoke of Blessed Mother Teresa at her presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979:

"She sees Christ in every human being, and this in her eyes makes people sacred... The hallmark of her work has been respect for the individual and the individual's worth and

dignity. The loneliest and the most wretched, the dying destitute, the abandoned lepers, have been received by her and her Sisters with warm compassion devoid of condescension, based on this reverence for Christ in all.

At the age of twelve she had felt the call to help the poor, and a few years later decided to work in India. At the age of eighteen she joined the Irish order of Loreto and went to teach in their girls' school in Calcutta. After sixteen years she felt a new call, to work in the Calcutta slums. There she started a new order, the Missionaries of Charity, committed to serve the poorest of the poor, which soon spread to many other countries.

Working for people who were not of her race, religion or nationality, Mother Teresa had transcended all barriers. With her message she is able to reach through to something innate in every human kind -- if for no other purpose than to create a potential, a seed for good. She promotes peace in the most fundamental manner, by her confirmation of the inviolability of human dignity."

Leader:

May the example of Blessed Mother Teresa be source of strength within us. May we see the worth of every person and work for peace first in ourselves and then in the world around us.

2nd Reader:

As we grow as a people of peace, let us pray to our Mother Mary, the Queen of Peace, that her intercessions may help us:

All: Hail Mary ...

Leader:

Lord Jesus, following the mystery of your resurrection, you said to your disciple, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you." Thank you for the gift of peace. Help us to work for peace in our daily lives, and help us to find peace by giving ourselves completely to you. Christ the light of peace, show us how to be people of peace.

All: Amen.



Leader:

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

TALKING ABOUT GOD'S WORD



Reader:

As a people of God, we are called to make Christ present to others and those we serve. For us to do that, we must realize the needs of those around us. The Church over the past century has realized the needs of people and explored the human condition. We, as Church, are called to serve those who are exploited and in need.

Where in our community or world do we see the need for Christ to be present?

The Church calls us to be a people faith that bring about justice. As baptized Christians, we are called to respond to injustice in the world and be a light of peace for those in need.

There are ten key principles of Catholic Social Teaching: human dignity; community and the common good; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; participation; dignity of work and rights of workers; stewards of creation; solidarity; role of the government; and promotion of peace.

To help us better understand these teachings, four of the Catholic Social Teachings will now be explained in more detail:

Human Dignity

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the person is at the core of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

Stewards of Creation

Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions which cannot be ignored.

Promotion of Peace

Catholic teaching promotes peace as a positive, action-oriented concept. In the words of Pope John Paul II, "Peace is not just the absence of war. It involves mutual respect and confidence between peoples and nations. It involves collaboration and binding agreements."

Discussion Questions:

Now that we know some of the Catholic Social Teachings, let us as a family look at one of those principles presented in detail for us. If you as a family want to further explore the other Catholic Social Teachings go to:

<http://www.osjspm.org/files/officefor-socialjustice/files/Catholic%20Social%20Teachings%201%20page.pdf>

Decide as a family which one you will pick.

Once you have chosen a Catholic Social Teaching, consider the following questions:

1. Why is it important that we as Catholic address this issue?
2. Where do we see this issue currently happening?
3. How can we be a people who work for peace and live this teaching more in our lives?

LIVING GOD'S WORD

For this week's act of service, you will learn how to be a light of peace in your family

Christ calls us to love one another and what better way to prepare our hearts this Advent Season than growing in our love for our family.

This week each family member will find ways to help and affirm another member of the family. To complete this task, put each family members name in a hat or bowl and have each person draw a name. You are not to reveal their name nor will you ever reveal their name.