

Behold, I am
with you always!

Solemnity of
The Ascension of the Lord

Peace

San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

May 17, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Hate is an insidious and destructive emotion... (note all you would-be-constructors of peace). It destroys relationships. It destroys nations. It destroys persons and families. Most of us recoil in face



of hatred and avoid situations where we might be on the receiving end of it. Actions which precipitate

hatred are those that cut to the core of persons and values. In today's Gospel, Jesus prays for the disciples whom he knows will take up his saving mission, and in some cases be hated for it.

Jesus' mission is at the core of who we are and the Gospel values we embrace. His mission is to bring all people to wholeness and well-being. This necessarily means that people will be challenged to change, to let go, to surrender themselves more fully to doing God's will.

Jesus is not naive about sending out disciples. His lengthy prayer for them (and for us) recognizes that there will be resistance to the word of truth. Nevertheless, Jesus' prayer assures us that we will never be alone. We are one with each other in the Body of Christ and one with Christ, his Father and their Spirit.

This is our joy: to be so intimately loved, cared for, protected, guarded and guided by Jesus—all for the sake of the world!

Words to reflect upon: loved, cared for, protected, guarded and guided by Jesus

DO NOT BE AFRAID

TO TAKE A CHANCE ON PEACE, TO LIVE PEACE.
PEACE WILL BE THE LAST WORD OF HISTORY.

— St. John Paul II

POPE FRANCIS' TEACHINGS ON PEACE

The Verge of Peace

"History teaches that our own powers do not suffice. More than once we have been on the verge of peace, but the evil one, employing a variety of means, has succeeded in blocking it. That is why we are here, because we know and we believe that we need the help of God. We do not renounce our responsibilities, but we do call upon God in an act of supreme responsibility before our consciences and before our peoples. We have heard a summons, and we must respond. It is the summons to break the spiral of hatred and violence, and to break it by one word alone: the word "brother". But to be able to utter this word we have to lift our eyes to heaven and acknowledge one another as children of one Father."

—*Invocation for Peace, held with Presidents Shimon Peres of Israel and Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine, Vatican Gardens, June 9, 2014*



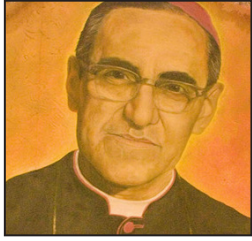
**I will bless the God of peace at all times;
praise shall be always in my mouth.
My soul will glory in the God of peace
that the poor may hear and be glad.
Magnify the God of peace with me.**

— *Psalm 34:2-4*

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
1 Timothy 2:1*

LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL:
Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz**, and Peter Fiorito.
Prayer: Please Let us continue to shout beseeching God for peace and peace makers especially in the city of Baltimore, Maryland.

Next Saturday, May 23rd, thirty-five years after his assassination at the hands of a Salvadorian military death squad, **Archbishop Oscar Romero** will be beatified in his native El Salvador. Bishop Romero was the kind of bishop Pope Francis describes in his earthy language as “smelling of the sheep”, a description that led him directly to his death.



His love of people who were poor, his faithfulness to the Gospel, led him to confront the people who had become captive to their own wealth and power. Risking his life day after day, he spoke truth to power walking with his people, a living witness to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. His life became a walking profession of faith. Today we look at Romero as a contemporary expression of the love of God and neighbor that guided Jesus. Nothing could have been more fitting than his martyrdom while he was celebrating mass, the celebration that proclaims the death and resurrection of Christ.

“This is what we are about, we plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.”
— **Oscar Romero**

Power to the Peaceful!

PEACE STARTS HERE

A Reflection by Thich Nhat Hanh

We often think of peace as the absence of war; that if the powerful countries would reduce their arsenals, we could have peace. But if we look deeply into the weapons, we see our own minds—our prejudices, fears, and ignorance. Even if we transported all the bombs to the moon, the roots of war and the reasons for bombs would still be here, in our hearts and minds, and sooner or later we would make new bombs.

Seek to become more aware of what causes anger and separation, and what overcomes them. Root out the violence in your life, and learn to live compassionately and mindfully. Seek peace. When you have peace within, real peace with others will be possible.

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

The Beatitudes of Peace



Here are the **Beatitudes of Peace** (by Fr. John Dear), uttered contrary to the anti-beatitudes of violence that pulse through the veins of our culture today.

Walk forth, you poor in spirit, you humble and powerless. Keep going. Don't be discouraged by your poverty. The kingdom of God is yours.

Walk forth, you who mourn the victims of war and hunger. Keep going. You will be consoled.

Walk forth, you meek and gentle and nonviolent. Inherit the earth and enjoy the blessings of creation.

Walk forth, you who hunger and thirst for justice. Don't give up. You will be satisfied. “Justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

Walk forth, you merciful. Keep showing mercy in a merciless world. Forgive everyone. Be compassionate to everyone. Show mercy to everyone. Mercy will be yours.

Walk forth, you pure in heart. Keep going. Be filled with the light of peace and see Christ in the poor, in the enemy, in one another.

Walk forth, you who make peace. Keep on going. Speak against war. Organize peace vigils. Write Congress. Become who you are, the sons and daughters of the God of peace.

Walk forth, you persecuted for justice. Keep going. Don't give up. You stand on the shoulders of Dr. King, Dorothy Day and Mahatma Gandhi. Your reward will be great.

If we follow these guideposts, hear this encouragement, we learn that the God of peace is alive and at work among us—giving us God's kingdom, God's consolation, God's creating, God's satisfaction, God's mercy, God's face, God's calling us his daughters and sons and God's best reward. In other words, **take heart!** God is leading us into the fullness of life, a life of peace.

There really is good news after all.

LET US STORM HEAVEN together this week asking our Almighty Father for help for the **hundreds of newly released women kidnapped by ISIS in Nigeria** months ago. They are suffering traumatic physical, emotional, neurological and spiritual conditions and they desperately need our help.