



Liturgy April 15 2017

XXII General Chapter

Final Phase

Holy Saturday "Silence and Solitude"

Background

We look at images of the movie Jesus in Nazareth by Franco Zefirelli, when Mary arrives at the foot of the cross until the body of Jesus was laid in the tomb.

Introduction:

We want to approach Mary's solitude after leaving her son inside the tomb. Let us come close to many moments of loneliness which we, and some other people we know, experience today, people who are not strange to us in our ordinary going and coming.

Psalm: I am not going to tell you their names

I am not going to tell you their names because you, Lord, have them written in the palm of your hands.
I am not going to talk to you of their sufferings because you, Lord, listen to the affliction of those who are helpless.
I am not going to tell you their story because you know even the number of the hair on their heads.
I am not going to explain to you the police harassment to which they were subjected because you know so well what it feels to be persecuted.

I am not going to narrate their sadness because you, Lord, felt it when you were dying of anguish.



I am not going to give you lessons on loneliness because you were alone on the cross.

I am not going to ask you to look at their smallness because you, Lord, took the last condition, that of a slave.

I am not going to pray you to see their situation because you are moved to the core before anyone who suffers.

I only want, Lord, to talk to you of myself, my community, my Church, my world. Of me who am your daughter, of my community which you have gathered, of my Church which is the group of your followers; of my world because it is yours.

Grant, O Lord, that we may carry in the palm of our hands the name of all those who suffer, the impoverished, those who had to leave their land. May we have our ears open to listen to their sufferings, their lamentations, their cries.

Help us know their lives, their feelings, their cultures, their beliefs. To look with tenderness at the photos of their families and to count with them the money they send to their countries, in a poor way, to support their loved ones.

Do not allow us to scape, when they are the ones persecuted; scape of helplessness, of hopelessness, of tiredness.

Do not allow us to escape from their reality.

May we never, Lord, enclose ourselves in our sadness because theirs is greater; it is written in their eyes, in their hands, in their being; filling all his existence.

Our loneliness, Lord, which many times really hurt us, is our own decision, is a response; theirs is obliged, imposed, beyond the limits of their will.

Grant that we may know how to accompany them, fill the hours many times spent alone.

Help us so that their smallness may be the voice of your Beatitudes, of your Kingdom, of your promises, that in them we may see your whole gospel written, your Good News which tells us that your Kingdom is for those who are last, the unnoticed, the persecuted.

And lastly, Lord, may our hearts not be hardened; may we not, in our depths, get accustomed to the sufferings of your children.

You who are Father-Mother, grant that in each of them, we may feel our hearts broken, that there you are suffering.

Grant that we may learn to discover, in the midst of such pain, an opportunity to build the New Humanity which is your only plan for all men and women in our world.

Symbols

After praying with this Psalm, we can write, on small sheets of paper the names of persons whose solitude we want to resent to the Lord.

PRAYER TOGETHER



Lord, Father and Mother,
of all men and women:
We ask you to open us
to the presence of the Spirit
in this time of great changes in the world
and in the history of your people
where the poor, the humble and the
simple
are forgotten and excluded.

In celebrating the final phase of our
General Chapter,
we want to dispose ourselves to
discover,
and in to be in solidarity, to respond
to the new biddings of this globalized
world.

We believe, as women of God,
that the Spirit calls us today
to give a missionary response, solidary
and compassionate,
and to continue weaving in this world,
together with Mary, our Mother,
linkages which will promote
life and hope.

We ask you, aware of our weaknesses
which we place in your hands.
AMEN.