

NO REST FOR THE JUST



The apostles were tired:

“The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

He said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’

People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.

So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.”

Like the apostles, working tirelessly for change and unceasingly for justice may drain you. Please be encouraged and never lose hope. The Responsorial Psalm provides encouragement: “Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil.”

Can we take a moment and let that sink in: we do this work not alone but with God beside us, God behind us, God leading us. While it may seem that the world sits in opposition, out of seven billion people, there are always a few hundred mischievous people stirring up trouble. God beside us.

We understand when the mind tires and the body stumbles. Recovering and recharging are necessary; both are part of life. Social justice is more than part of life; however; social justice is a way of life. It is not *doing* but *being*. We can rest but we let us not stop working for justice.

Therefore, take pause and rest: “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.”

We don't work on social justice in easy times; we work on social justice in difficult times. We don't work for ourselves; we work for this generation; we work for the next generation; and the generation after that. Working for today's people and tomorrow's generations is essential to our mission:

- We work to end poverty today to eliminate generational poverty tomorrow
- We work to end abortion today to let the next generation live tomorrow
- We work to save creation today to let the world and its citizen live tomorrow

Though the apostles were tired, they did not rest. “People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.”

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah rails against the “mischievous hundreds”:

“You have scattered my sheep and driven them away.

You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds.”

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; ... This is the name they give him: ‘The LORD our justice.’”

Let us continue our efforts to prepare the world for “The LORD our justice.” There is no rest for the just.

(Sunday Readings for July 19, 2015)



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