

## Reflection for December 6, 2015

### Second Sunday of Advent



By Sister Kathleen Angel, CDP

We hear about war and rumors of war. We propose to solve terrorism and killing of the innocents by killing those responsible. Somehow we think that violence can solve the problem of violence. However, this Sunday we are reminded by Isaiah in the Entrance Antiphon, “O people of Sion, behold the Lord will come to save the nations and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your heart.”

Baruch tells us that we should “look to the east and see (God’s) children.” We also hear an echo of the Baptist’s voice. “Every lofty mountain (is) made low, and the age-old depths and gorges (are) filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. God is leading Israel in joy by the light of His glory, with His mercy and justice for company.”

Paul tells us that he prays “always with joy in every prayer” and “that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value.”

I was struck by two replies from interviewees in live reports following the acts of violence in Paris. One person said that no one could force them to be filled with hate, rather the solution is love, prayer, and forgiveness. In another report, a father was trying to help his little son overcome fear. He told the child that flowers given in tribute by many will overcome the violence of the few. This echoes the idea “that swords should be beat into plowshares.” I was pleasantly surprised that these reports were actually featured during this time of violence. It is much easier and perhaps more noteworthy to talk about revenge then to talk about love and forgiveness.

“Behold the joy which come to you from God” (Communion). “Teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven” (After communion).