

Advent 2015

We are called to be caretakers of human virtue not underground arsenals, to sow and harvest the seeds of cooperation, mutuality, and the flourishing of life, not the seeds of dissension and destruction.

Marie McCarthy, SP

Isaiah, prophet of hope, understands the human condition, the weariness and despair that result from the fatigue of human work, of struggling for sustenance, and most of all of desiring and dreaming of peace. This mirage of peace seems to blow away like the sand in the desert, blown away by the hot breeze. The people are left with the heat of oppression and unending agony.

Yes, many people among us can resonate with the feelings described by Isaiah, questioning whether the One we believed in, the One our parents and grandparents taught us to trust even exists. If God does exist, does he even care about our misery? Does God really love us as a mother hen loves her chicks? How can we sow seeds of mutuality and cooperation when our hands are empty? What can we offer to a suffering world when we ourselves are suffering?

In spite of this reality, Isaiah's promise rings out and bursts through this wall of despair and lifts God's people one more time, and thousands of times throughout the ages, even up to today. Our God still has the power to save and desires to renew our strength, to inspire us into greatness in a way that allows us to see our purpose more clearly, to run instead of stagger toward a new vision of a better world where we experience healthier and holier relationships with one another, with those in our ministries and in the communities throughout the world that we hold in our hearts. Hope frees us to move beyond the pettiness within our convent walls, to breathe the air of self-forgetfulness and genuine joy.

Christ invites us in the Gospel of Matthew to go to Him. He is the source of our strength. He calls us to rest, rest, rest in Him. He is eager to carry our burdens of limitations, frustrations, and helplessness when our plans for doing good are thwarted by the obstacles we encounter along the way. These obstacles sap our physical, spiritual and emotional strength. Advent is a time of expectant hope. Do we have the humility to gratefully give Christ our burdens so we can be truly free to live in hope?

Guadalupe Ramirez, MCDP
San Antonio, TX

