

REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

How often do we feel abandoned by God? How often do we pray like the prophet Habakkuk in the first reading: "How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? How long shall I cry for help, and you will not save me? Why do you make me see iniquity and look at injustice? Oppression and violence are before me; strife arises, and discord reigns." Faced with the injustices we experience in our world; faced with the violence of war, hatred, oppression... how often do we pray to God for peace, for harmony among peoples... and it seems that God does not hear us. But God tells the prophet Habakkuk that our time is not his time. He will sow peace and justice among the nations when the time is right. What God asks of us is that we do not lose heart and wait for his time of grace and salvation with patience and certainty that his plan of salvation will be fulfilled, each of us seeking to be an instrument of that salvation, walking in the ways of justice and peace.

This waiting for God's salvation must be done by persevering in faith, strong in charity, confident in the love of God who does not abandon us, keeping "the good teaching entrusted to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us," as St. Paul tells us in the second reading. Christ must be our model of life. We must bear witness to him without fear, never ashamed of our faith. This means saying no to war, no to hatred, no to xenophobia, no to contempt for those who are different. Choosing Christ means choosing the values of the Gospel, the values of peace, justice,

fraternity, and love for all, without distinction of race, people, religion, language, or nation.

And after we have done all this, as Jesus tells us in the Gospel, let us always maintain a humble attitude, because after all we are only servants of the Lord, doing what we must do when we live the values that Jesus taught us. Serving must be our destiny, the goal of our life, without boasting, but happy because we know we are loved by God and called to sow his love in the world. Christ invites us, as his disciples, to adhere, with courage and radicalism, to his life project: to build his Kingdom in the world. Committed to this project, we must be aware that we do not act on our own, but are only instruments through which God accomplishes his salvation. It remains for us to fulfill our role with humility and gratitude, as “servants who have only done what they ought to do.”

AMEN.