

Being Prophets *of Hope and Unity in Diversity*

Advent Prayer Guide
Week 2
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Unity in diversity

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;



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and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den.” (Is 11, 6-8)

**Is this just a metaphor for unity in heaven, in eternity?
Is it real to live it in our everyday life?**

Opening song: John Michael Talbot -
We are one body

The wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the goat, the bear and the cow, the lion and the calf live and stay in different herds every day, the lion eats something different from the ox, the child usually plays with other children. What has happened that such different animals and children live together, stay together and even become friends?

In spite of the differences between us, the different nationalities, cultures, mentalities, the different ways of experiencing our relationship with God and being in the Church, the diversity of seeing and understanding the reality of the world, social problems e.g. the wave of migration in the world, sometimes we experience moments when we discover that somewhere in the depths of our soul/heart we are the same in our desire for God's love, our desire for peace and justice.

Is unity between people possible despite the stark differences in today's world? How can I strengthen it?

“We hope for a better world where there is greater equity and a deepened sense of democracy that welcomes diversity and the participation of all. We clamor for respect for human dignity, and we make our small contributions in responding with care and hope to the yearnings of humanity and earth.” (*Artisans of Hope*, p. 13)

What small contribution can I/we make in my house small and large, in order to create a climate of unity in diversity in my family, community, place of apostolate, Church, world?

Hope

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God”. (Rom 15, 4-7)

How do you sustain hope in others / yourself?

What helps you?

Whom do you take in and how?

Being prophets of hope

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” (Mt 3, 3)

“He who comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to carry. He shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit.” (Mt 3,11)



To become a prophet is to acknowledge one's own participation and responsibility in the sin of the world, the indifference and surrender to helplessness in the face of galloping global warming, the rising tide of migrants and refugees, the endless wars in various parts of the world, the unjust power structures in states and the Church, the unbridled desire for profit of rich corporations... "...complicity in unjust systems humbles us. It invites us to be more open to the transforming work of the Spirit in us and in the world." (*Artisans of Hope*, p.13)

To become a prophet is to humbly "ask for strength from the pierced Heart of Jesus, "to widen the doors of our tents", to be open to the new, to be welcoming to who and what is not familiar? To hear the voice of God in ourselves and outside of ourselves, to be people of hope in this time of uncertainty, we need to learn to be vulnerable and, at the same time, resilient." (*Letter for the Heart of Jesus 2022*, Barbara Dawson)

To become a prophet is to take small steps towards unity every day anew, where I live, serve, work.

Shall I remember the prophets of the 21st century for whom I am/we are grateful?

The prophets of the 21st century, the "saints next door..." - Silent yet prophetic voices in the desert of the world... hope-givers... "craftsmen" of hope doing their work every day:

- Volunteers and doctors on the Polish-Belarusian border... teacher cooking soup for the border with her class of young people.
- Heartbreak in Poland, Ukraine, and other European countries... doctors, Polish and Ukrainian volunteers, ordinary people in different parts of Europe welcoming refugees from Ukraine into their homes...
- Small communities on the borders, e.g., in Morocco.
- Open communities living with young, needy, women with a passion for justice, peace, and ecology.
- NGOs publicizing injustice in the world, taking various ecological actions.
- Sexually abused persons in the Church, bearing witness to their relationship with God and presence in the Church...
- Theologians, journalists inspiring to look at the reality of the Church today.

"It is impossible to write a guide to a land we do not know. And the dark night of the Church, the collective experience of spiritual loss is an experience unknown to us Catholics. I will be looking for signposts and landmarks for the long trek. I do not promise that it will be much clearer immediately, but someone very wise said 'Seek and you will find' So I promise that we will seek." (Zbigniew Nosowski)



To be a prophet today is "to trust each other, to lay open our imperfect lives, to recognize and welcome our need of each other" despite our differences, to commit ourselves together to a just and fraternal society, peace, and unity in the world.

"We hope for a better world where there is greater equity and a deepened sense of democracy that welcomes diversity and the participation of all."

(*Artisans of Hope*, p.13)

**What prophets are we listening to? Is my voice a prophetic voice?
Am I not discouraged when my voice seems too quiet, unheard?
What kind of prophet is our congregation/
our small communities/ for the world?
For me personally?**

Closing song: [Hymn WYD Lisbon 2023](#)

