

WAKE UP!

Durante los últimos meses, me ha perseguido un poema titulado *Primero vinieron*, de la época del Holocausto. Quizás lo hayan leído antes.

Primero vinieron a por los comunistas

Y yo no dije nada

Porque no era comunista

Luego vinieron por los socialistas

Y yo no dije nada

Porque no era socialista

Luego vinieron por los sindicalistas

Y yo no dije nada

Porque no era sindicalista

Luego vinieron por los judíos

Y yo no dije nada

Porque no era judío

Luego vinieron por mí

Y ya no quedaba nadie

Que pudiera defenderme

Despertemos en este Adviento. Comprometámonos a trabajar en nuestro interior para poder renacer en este Adviento y que esta labor nunca se aleje de nuestros hermanos y hermanas y sus necesidades. Si no despertamos, puede que no quede nadie que hable por nosotros.

Por favor, recen por mí. Yo prometo hacer lo mismo.

Featherston



Dear Parish Family:

This weekend, we begin the season of Advent. In the midst of busy times and days, the Church does not call us to stop but calls us to make sure that our faith is never, ever far from anything we do in these days. That in silence and in action, we never let our relationship with Jesus and the Church be far from us. The readings each year for the First Sunday of Advent never speak about Bethlehem or babies or even characters from the Nativity. They speak to us about a deeper preparation that is needed in our lives if we are to survive.

Building off of themes from the second reading and the Gospel, we need to wake up. Pay attention. Stay vigilant.

This work, always in the context of the community of faith, begins with each one of us. As we take some time for our own spiritual reflection can we acknowledge that there are parts of our relationship with Jesus that have fallen asleep. Do we pray regularly or at all? Are we asking God to help us with those parts of our lives -seen and unseen, known and unknown by others -that are in need of restoration and healing? Are we rejoicing toward the house of the Lord as our psalm reminds us today or are finding ourselves pulling further and further away? Are creating time and space in silence for God to dwell? It may be some of these things or others but I am sure for each of us there is work to do, places we are a bit drowsy, maybe even sleepwalking. Wake up!

This week, I will celebrate my 14th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. It is hard for me to consider I have been a priest for this long (and now I'm 50 too!). I think of my own life - particularly in these 14 years - where I am, at times, sleep walking. Going through the motions but not moving deeper in my relationship with Jesus. It's been a good reflection in the early days of the Novena of Grace for me - maybe for you too?





THE PASTOR'S POST

WAKE UP!

From the interior waking, I need to share great concern these days about the reality of the world in which we live today ... and fear that we may be encouraged to go to sleep, to walk away, to become used to some of the things we are seeing these days. This is not the work of the Gospel. How many of us have become drowsy when it comes to the war torn parts of our world? For example, the invasion of Ukraine and the war since is entering its fourth year in February. How many of us have become OK with the reality of poverty and people with nothing to eat? For example, we are now caring for over 400 families per month in the pantry, approximately at 20% increase. Have we settled for behavior that causes an end to life in the womb or brings the tomb more quickly than it should? Why are we not advocating more? Speaking up more? Rallying more? (I ask myself these questions!)

And how we cannot acknowledge the pressure on immigrants in this country right now? Whether here with documents or if they are without documents (a civil, not criminal violation), how can we accept raids and violence against many who are innocent of any crime? How can we not speak up more about a system of apprehension based on skin color and language? How can we not speak up about families continually being separated (this is not new!) and torn apart? How can we not address those wrongly accused and detained and in some cases, deported?

In many ways, we have fallen asleep. We're OK to say a prayer, express our condolences, light a candle. These are good things and we need to be grounded in prayer and compassion if we are disciples. Yet, have we become comfortable with unjust and immoral things? Do we say to ourselves, "Well, it's not really my problem...."? Settling rather than waking up and doing something? What that something is I do not know right now, but are we too drowsy, too sleepy to even see it or look for it or risk it?

Over the past months, I have been haunted by a poem *First They Came* from the time of the Holocaust. You may have read it before.

*First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me*

Let's wake up this Advent. Let's commit to doing the work within so we can be reborn in this Advent and let this work never be far from our brothers and sisters and their needs. If we don't wake up, there may be no one left to speak for us.

Please pray for me. I promise the same.

Featherman

