

A Prayer for Justice in the World

What good will I do you if my speech does not have some revelation, or knowledge, or prophecy, or instruction for you? Even in the case of lifeless things which produce a sound, such as a flute or a harp, how will anyone know what is being played if there is no distinction among the notes? Similarly, if you do not utter intelligible speech because you are speaking in a tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will be talking to the air.... What is my point here? I want to pray with my spirit, and also to pray with my mind. I want to sing with my spirit and with my mind as well. If your praise of God is solely with the spirit, how will the one who does not comprehend be able to say “Amen” to your thanksgiving?

☞ 1 Corinthians 14: 6-9, 15-16

Reader One: “What good will I do you if my speech does not have some revelation, or knowledge, or prophecy, or instruction for you?”

All: Faith, internal well of conviction in our God, well up within me and bubble forth into my community often parched of the hope of change.

Reader Two: “Even in the case of lifeless things which produce a sound, such as a flute or a harp, how will anyone know what is being played if there is no distinction among the notes?”

All: May we, as people of God, voice our convictions with a difference: Respecting the dignity of every human.

Reader Three: Similarly, if you do not utter intelligible speech because you are speaking in a tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will be talking to the air.

All: We pray that the Reign of God be ushered in and the Will of God be done. It is by us empowered by the Holy Spirit that these are more than airy concepts for our community and parish.

Reader Four: What is my point here? I want to pray with my spirit, and also to pray with my mind. I want to sing with my spirit and with my mind as well.

All: We begin by listening that then we will be moved to voice. We begin in stillness that then we will be moved to act. We begin by seeing that then we will be moved to praise.

Reader Five: If your praise of God is solely with the spirit, how will the one who does not comprehend be able to say “Amen” to your thanksgiving?

All: By our vote we translate our voice, our action, and our praise into the tongue of the society in which we live.

About the author:

Kathy Judge is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Oklahoma City, OK. Through participation in a JustFaith program, she became interested in issues of social justice as well as the history of Catholic social teaching and responses to it. As a result, she is a member of the St. Charles Legislative Advocacy Coalition. Kathy is a public high school English and Humanities teacher at Putnam City High School. You can e-mail Kathy at mkathleenjudge@earthlink.net.