ROSARY FOR DISARMAMENT

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Holy Week 2020

First Decade, Sorrowful Mystery Prayer with Relevant Scripture

Matthew 26:52: "... Jesus said to [Peter] 'Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take up the sword will perish by the sword ...'

O GOD, to You the one who sent Jesus we pray. Awakened from our slumbers by the violence all around us, Jesus draws us into a deeper vigil. We're back to a garden where death entered into our humanity. Now death has hunted Jesus down. While according to Matthew, Jesus could vanquish all his opponents with a legion of angels, he shows the love You have for all present: soldiers, betrayer, apostles. Jesus role models the confidence we need to place in You. May we keep watch and respond as Jesus by engaging those who succumb to the temptation of violence.
Second Sorrowful Mystery

Scourging at the Pillar

Isaiah 50:6-7: "I gave my back to those who beat me...my face I did not hide from insults and spitting...LORD, GOD you are (my) help, our help...we have set our face like flint, know(ing) I won't be put to shame."

Scourged at the pillar, GOD, they nearly killed Jesus with the lash. These are the consequences he suffers for his beatitude of loving his persecutors. Though we may not have to undergo such a torment -- but many have for the sake of Jesus' name -- in our non-violent resistance, we do risk loss of reputation, credibility, status and prestige and possibly enter the physical inconvenience(s) of incarceration. Give us the Grace of confidence in you, not so much in strategies of win-lose with non-violence. But rather to engage, as a way of loving as Jesus role-modeled. For Paul writes of the caveat in 1 Corinthians 13 that even if we give over our body but be without love we gain nothing. For this grace, we pray...
Third Sorrowful Mystery

The Crowning with Thorns

John 18:36: "If my Kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over...But as it is, my Kingdom is not here..."

GOD, as followers of your Son, we sinned in worshipping power and domination rejecting Jesus as the Anointed One in favor of Caesar and empire. In the Gospels, Jesus predicted 3 times that He would be handed over. In the final prediction, he described the passion, being handed over to the temple authorities who in turn would hand him over to the Gentiles, to be mocked and scourged. Jesus your Son avoided the worldly office of king, claiming not coming to be served, but to serve. We need this grace as followers to embody and hold up this version of Your Messiah, Your Anointed One. For this grace we pray...
Fourth Sorrowful Mystery (of Disarmament)

Jesus Condemned

Philippians 2: "...Christ Jesus...did not go on to equality with God's self...but rather emptied himself...humble himself...becoming obedient even unto death, death on a cross...".

Isaiah 42:1-4: "...My Chosen One...I have put my spirit; He shall bring forth Justice to the nations...He will not cry out, nor shout...A bruised reed he shall not break...a dimly burning wick he will not quench..."

GOD, Jesus has become the grain of wheat that he made a parable, falling to the ground so as to yield fruit in Your will for us. For You will a faith that does justice. While we have for centuries misunderstood the Cross, in imitation and following Jesus such as confusing this 1st century Christian understanding of capital punishment with declining smoking, or a difficult relationship, Jesus says it is no greater love than to lay down one's life. Although in the way of engaging and converting violence, reaching out to violent opposition, or in peace making, we may not receive a death penalty, the Gospels show that openness, not holding back our lives, is the key to scriptural interpretation. Please fortify us in following Jesus with the grace of not holding back, not stinting with our lives. For this grace we pray ...
Fifth Sorrowful Mystery

Jesus Dies on the Cross

John 12:32: "...and when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself..."

John 19:28: "...Aware that everything was now finished, in order that scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I thirst' ...

GOD, if we are paying attention, there are thousands of Jerusalems, Golgothas happening now, especially with the possibility of nuclear weapons. May we stay vigilant like in the first mystery to Your Son’s invitation to watch, follow and to love our enemies. We see in so many artists’ depictions of the deposition from the Cross what a failure it all seemed to be. But most of all, Blessed Mother, for whom it was foretold that her “own heart would be pierced” (Luke 2) did receive Jesus, and she role-modeled non-retaliation. We ask for the grace to have our hearts continuously made in likeness to Blessed Mother’s and Jesus’, that we walk with each other, hearts disarmed. Thus freed, we can go and do likewise...