

Reflection by
Carol Harris OLS

What is this World Coming to?

This is a question many of us wonder about these days, with the threat of Coronavirus 19, quarantines, social distancing, unemployment, hunger, homelessness, global warming, failing education systems and the constant fear of crime, injustice and senseless murder of black sisters and brothers at the hands of police or Vigilantes.

In tonight's reading from the Hebrew Scriptures "Isaiah Chapter 11 Verses. 1-9" we are reminded of a time around 782 BC. A time when the chosen people of Judah and Jerusalem also were worried about their world. They were feeling abandoned, lonely and feared the threat of war or invasion from neighboring countries. They had also fallen out of good grace with God. The chosen citizens had abandoned Laws of Moses by worshiping other gods, acting in immoral ways and their rulers were making unfair and unjust laws that oppressed the poor and the meek. The invasion and wars had left the land barren. Forests were cut down. The chosen people were hopeless! What hope did they have for the future?

This is one of the questions Isaiah the prophet addresses. Isaiah delivers God's message to the chosen people of Judah and Jerusalem that a Messiah would be coming! This Messiah is represented as a stump of Jesse (David's father). Isaiah points out that the new Messiah, Jesus, would be a new branch or shoot from the root of Jesse. The Messiah will be gifted with the Holy Spirit...with Wisdom, Understanding, Council, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of The Lord.

He will bring peace and justice to the meek and the poor. Isaiah also tells us that there will come to pass a time when the predator and the prey, will live together in peace and harmony like in days of the Garden of Eden.

What hope do we have in the future? Jesus is Our Hope and Salvation. The gifts that rests upon the Messiah are the same gifts that Jesus shared with each of us during the Sacrament of Baptism. When each of us uses the gifts of the Holy Spirit to exercise and fulfill our obligation to promote respect and love for our neighbor, then and only then, can positive changes happen to our neighborhoods, city, state, nation and world.

When we work with government and civic leaders to create fair and justice laws to :

To eliminate **Racism**

To reform the **Criminal Justice System**

To reform **Local Policing**

To increase funding for **Mental Health Services**

To fund and reform **Education Systems** to ensure that no child is left behind

To fund affordable Housing

To enhance services for the **Homeless**

To reform **Food Assistance Programs** to prevent hunger

To create jobs with **Living Wages**

To ceate a more **Diverse Workforce**

As citizens we must take an active role in bringing about change by:

Participating on committees,

Writing letters expressing our concerns

Exercising our voices at the ballot box,

Participating in peaceful marches to communicate the urgency for social change.

Engage in dialogue to share ideas and promote relationship building

Engage in dialogue and open discussions about racism

Engage and learn about other cultures

Be respectful

Love your neighbor