

Friday Evening Prayer

Instrumental Music playing, picture of chapel and silence

Greeting and Call to Meditation:

There is a Light

Introductions

Letter from Fr. Jerry

Good afternoon Kevin from a very blustery but sunny afternoon here in San Jose.

Great to hear from you and a very happy and holy new year to you, one and all.

I feel the hermitages have an immense role to play within the population in general both in and post pandemic. We are going to need urgent spaces to revitalize and reconstruct our lives when things normalize once again if one can even have the temerity use that word.

I am sure you are all relieved that things are returning to a certain normality in the USA. I feel the world is still aghast and bewildered that in spite of shocking events and scenes on the 6th of January the extremist mentality and all it entails is still so pervasive in the United States and doesn't seem to be going away any time soon. It seems to me for whatever reason that the middle ground and moderation has been lost sight of by both parties who seem dedicated to wasting energy bickering with one another like wild animals. It's all very difficult for an outsider to understand. I only hope it can be addressed with an alternative and that the views of calm wise heads and hearts in both parties prevail. The decorum and graciousness of the Biden inauguration and the very diverse and multiracial cabinet being built was a glimpse of the America we all know and admire. Let's hope the Lord guides Biden along the right path and as Saint Clare reminds us that he goes with the Lord. Were I in the States I would be doing a deep analysis, prayer and discernment on the whole extremist phenomena as we can only address and resolve what we understand and somehow or other all these phenomena however distasteful we find them are birth pangs crying out to be heard. Something in them is true and must be heard and addressed. But it is repressed and therefore expressed in the most distorted and confrontative indeed violent way. I had to calmly and listen to much of what I detested and considered as outrageous extremes in Northern Ireland and Latin America in order to understand and respectfully offer an alternative perspective and way forward. I feel the key to our Franciscan charism is silent respectful listening to one and all and then offer an alternative perspective. Anyway prayers for the USA, a country whose better angels have inspired us all and who we continue to admire and hope in.

Fr. Dan reflection

Reading The Legend of the Three Companions

The quote from The Legend of the Three Companions,

“(Francis) used to tell them: “As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that greater peace is in your hearts. Let no one be provoked to anger or scandal through you, but may everyone be drawn to peace, kindness and harmony through your gentleness. For we have been called to this: to heal the wounded, bind up the broken, and recall the erring. In fact many who seem to be members of the devil will yet be disciples of Christ”

Reflection questions for Breakout room:

How do we listen to our lives and the world?

What have you been hearing?

What have been hearing that brings you back to the mountain

What have you heard at the mountain that needs to go back to the world?

What do we all need to listen to, to make a difference?

Breakout Room sessions

Sharing with Larger Group

Petitions

Our Father