

BAPTISTINE PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bulletin

February, 2018

THEME: *GREENING THE VOWS BY MARGARET SCOTT*

Section 3: Poverty: Solidarity with the Earth

Scripture: “For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Reflection: Margaret Scott tells us in section 3 that Consecrated men and women are disciples of the poor and humble Christ, who was rich but for our sake became poor. The poor Christ invites us to leave everything and follow him. We embrace poverty because Christ was poor and identified himself with the poor. In the Gospels, we read how Jesus talked with men and women, lepers, and Pharisees, rich and poor but, above all, the poor. Consecration expresses a commitment to mirror the life of Jesus of Nazareth, imitating his way of life and his love: a love that empties itself in solidarity with all people, especially the smallest, the least and the forgotten.

Today, we live in a world in ecological crisis, poverty is vowed within the broader context of the fragility of the earth and the oppression of all creation.

In his encyclical, Pope Francis ties together the growing ecological crisis with the global social crisis. The ecological crisis hits the poor harder than anyone else. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are fused.

The vow of poverty calls us actively to refrain from using up the finite resources of the earth, and to be gentle, much gentler, in our use of resources that are scarce. Our consecration is a call and a commitment to give freely and radically all that we have and are in a passionate self-emptying for God and humanity. Consecration is about always being ready to be bread in the hands of the poor, to be shared and to be at the side of the ‘have nots’

Response Options:

- How do I reverence the poor and the earth? Do I see them as gifts from God?
- How do I mirror Jesus of Nazareth, imitating his way of life and his love?

Prayer:

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. We pray...

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