

## Week Three (continued)

based upon the fragile autonomy that we do have, which seems to be in great excess in comparison to those around us - especially immigrants.

Ruth, an ancestor of Christ, was an immigrant in a foreign land. She, like the immigrants today, was vulnerable and at the mercy of others. These strangers who are in our midst are waiting as well. They are waiting for the day when they are recognized as people, with rights and dignity. They are at our mercy.

### Reflection Questions:

- When has waiting tested your faith? How did you feel? How was the situation resolved?
- Have you ever been or felt like a stranger in a foreign land? How were you treated?
- Who are "the strangers in your midst"?

## Week Four

### Compassion

"In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace"

Lk. 1: 77-78

Compassion, according to Webster's dictionary, is the "sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with the desire to alleviate it." How fortunate for us, that our God is filled with so much of it that a savior was born to redeem all of humanity. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the compassion of our God, let us look upon our own gift of compassion.

### Reflection Questions:

- How do you live in the compassion of Christ?
- How have others been compassionate to you?
- How does this Advent call you to manifest your gift of compassion?

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind.  
Bid every sad division cease  
And be Thyself our Prince of peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

---

**"Our commitment to reconciliation demands that we promote justice and peace."**



### Advent Reflections: 2007



# Week One

## Solidarity

"Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid...The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest... There shall be no harm or ruin on my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord..."  
Is. 11: 6-9

This citation from Isaiah is a beautiful passage that carries a message of peace, which is the result of tolerance and solidarity. As our world continues to ride the juggernaut of globalization, solidarity and tolerance have become ever more crucial. "The solidarity which binds all [peoples] together as members of a common family makes it impossible for wealthy nations to look with indifference upon the hunger, misery and poverty of other nations whose citizens are unable to enjoy even elementary human rights. The nations of the world are becoming more and more dependent on one another and it will not be possible to preserve a lasting peace so long as glaring economic and social imbalances persist" (*Mother and Teacher* # 157)

We at the National Advocacy Center invite you to take a moment to

reflect either as an individual or as a group upon the following questions:

- How do you live out your conception of solidarity?
- What traits or characteristics do you find difficult to tolerate in others?
- What graces do you need to ask for?

# Week Two

## Eco-Justice

"I will open up rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the broad valleys; I will turn the desert into a marshland, and the dry ground into springs of water. I will plant in the desert the cedar, acacia, myrtle, and olive; I will set in the wasteland the cypress, together with the plane tree and the pine, that all may see and know, observe and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it." Is. 41: 18-20

Often the word home carries various connotations: family, the state where you grew up, your present community, the country you are from. However, many fail to recognize that despite language, culture and geography, the

Earth is our true home. Ultimately, it is the only home that we have. Therefore, as the Church reminds us: "God destined the earth with all that it contains for the use of all people and nations, in such a way that created thing in fair share should accrue to all people under the leadership of justice with charity as

as a companion. All other rights, whatever they are, including property rights and the right of free trade must be subordinated to this norm; they must not hinder it, but must rather expedite its application. It must be considered a serious and urgent social obligation to refer these rights to their original purpose." [On the Development of Peoples](#), #69

### Reflection Questions:

- What can you or your community do to take care of your "home"?
- How are justice and the environment linked?
- How does nature nourish your spirit?

# Week Three

## Immigrants

"...Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth ..." Mt. 1:5

It seems to be that waiting is one of many motifs for week three in advent. We are waiting for the birth of Jesus, the One who redeems the world. Oddly enough, in this fast-paced world of ours, we spend most of our time waiting. We wait at the bank, we wait in line at the grocery store, we wait for dinner, we wait for the paper clients' paperwork to be processed. In reality, we are only able to change our circumstances