

One Family

“So we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.” Romans 12:5

When we pray the *Lord's Prayer* we are taking an oath, making a commitment to forgive those who do wrong unto us; to love one another, despite our different backgrounds, cultures and religions; to live as one family caring for and suffering with our brothers and sisters. Do we mean what we say?

“We don't pray my Father, but our Father, because we are not an only child, none of us are.” Pope Francis

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always oppose the holy Spirit...” Acts 7:51

Are our hearts deaf to the cries of our brothers and sisters in need? To those who suffer the injustices of society, those infected by the hells of war, those who cry out and don't know what is wrong, those who don't understand, those who weep from physical, mental and emotional abuse...? Do we hear the tears of the world or do we choose to make deaf our hearts and live for the empty despair of our own selfish desires?

***“I'm starting with the man in the mirror,
I'm asking him to change his ways.
And no message could have been any clearer.
If you want to make the world a better place,
Take a look at yourself, and then make a change.”
Michael Jackson - Man In The Mirror***

We hear often the talk of living right and just, but how can we begin to talk about being right and just, if we do not seek what is right and just for all? The day of the Lord will come and all will be judged not by how you lived your life for yourself, but how you lived for others.

***“I have looked into your eyes with
my eyes. I have put my heart near
your heart.” St. John XXIII***

We are not distant from one another, a world away, with different problems and unrelatable lives. We are a part of one another, we are the reason for each other's existence. What would happen if even just one person could start living for the world, rather than just for themselves? What if that one person was you?

***Our greatest reward lies in the help we
freely give to others. Our greatest
accomplishments, are not found in
stature, wealth, or notoriety, but in the
capacity by which we love one another.***

***Jesus,
divine teacher of mercy,
Teach me in the ways of compassion.
Enable me to forgive fully and completely.
May I forever love in the name of the Lord,
bearing always the love of the Lord, upon my lips.
May the mercy you show to me, be the love I share with all.
May I live each day for more than myself, may I live each day for everyone else.***

Amen