

“Let The Children Come to Me.”

Sons and daughters are a heritage from the Lord;
children are a reward from Him.

Psalm 127:3

Today, we remember in prayer all those children who find themselves in difficult and precarious situations that hinder their moral and physical lives. We pray for orphans and unwanted children, those conscripted into armies, those who sell their bodies to keep alive, those who are abused and used, those who lack any kind of education, nourishment or love and guidance in their lives.

Presence of God

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?
(Psalm 139:7) How great is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You bestow in the sight of all who take refuge in You. In the shelter of Your presence You hide them; in Your dwelling You keep them safe. (Psalm 31:19–20)

Psalm 149:3–6

Let them praise His name in festive dance,
make music with tambourine and lyre.
For the Lord takes delight in His people,
honors the poor with victory.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
cry out for joy at their banquet
with the praise of God in their mouths.



Scripture: Mark 10 :13–16

People were bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this He became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to Me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then He embraced them and blessed them, placing His hands on them. The Gospel of the Lord!

Matthew 18:1–6

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

He called a child over, placed it in their midst and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in My name receives Me. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for that person to have a great millstone hung around his/her neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. The Gospel of the Lord!

Reflection

We strongly believe that children are a gift from God and that these children are the future, and if given an education, and if given a life founded on the gospel values, they will be able to impact their culture for Christ more deeply than we ever could. But too often in too many places around our world we hear or see instances that denigrate the dignity and worth of these innocent ones. Children are looked on as an expendable commodity to be used and cast off.

For whatever reason this happens, it always makes the innocent child the victim with almost always no recourse of his or her own. Our prayers, our concentrated concern and financial support are a means to alleviate poor nutrition, lack of hygiene, lack of education in moral and practical ways, and a lack of halting the ever present threat to children being used as cheap labor or conscripted soldiers. These children, whoever they are and wherever they are, need to experience love and care in a variety of ways. Will we see the face of Christ in these unwanted and/or abused children? What will be our response?

We Are The Light Of The World

Blessed are they who are poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.

Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit; bless us, O Lord, our God.

Refrain: We are the light of the world; may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.

2. Blessed are they who are meek and humble; they will inherit the earth.

Bless us, O Lord, make us meek and humble; bless us, O Lord, our God.

3. Blessed are they who will mourn in sorrow; they will be comforted.

Bless us, O Lord, when we share their sorrow; bless us, O Lord, our God.

4. Bless those who hunger and thirst for justice; they will be satisfied.

Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for justice; bless us, O Lord, our God.

5. Blessed are they who show others mercy; they will know mercy too.

Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for mercy; bless us, O Lord, our God.

6. Blessed are hearts that are clean and holy; they will behold the Lord.

Bless us, O Lord, make us pure and holy; bless us, O Lord, our God.

7. Blessed are they who bring peace among us; they are the children of God.

Bless us, O Lord, may your peace be with us; bless us, O Lord, our God.

8. Bless those who suffer from persecution; theirs is the kingdom of God.

Bless us, O Lord, when they persecute us; bless us, O Lord, our God.

Prayer

O Loving Father, we commend all children to Your care. May you their God and Father mercifully supply whatever is lacking in the adults around them through frailty or negligence. Strengthen them to overcome the corruptions of the world, whether from within or without; and deliver them from the secret snares of the enemy. Pour Your grace into their hearts, and strengthen and multiply in them the gifts of Your Holy Spirit, that they may daily grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; and so, faithfully serving You here, may come to rejoice in Your presence hereafter. Amen.

All you Holy Innocent martyrs, watch over our youth.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

