

March 9, 2007

Dear Sisters,

Since the beginning of Lent we have heard God's call to return to love. Nothing is as essential as responding to this call. For too long we have lived with divided hearts. For too long we have lived in the illusion that we are separate from others. For too long we have resisted love, the only thing that ultimately matters.

Knowing that we are resistant and very slow to learn, the God of love has given statutes and decrees – commandments that enable us to choose what is life-giving and love-giving. Despite our rejection, God continues to invite, continues to call us to listen and to see, to hear the divine voice and to look at how we have sinned. The law is intended for our liberation, to set us free to love and be loved.

from Friday of the Third Week of Lent

The above quote is from a book for Lent by Judy Cannato, *QUANTUM GRACE- Lenten Reflections on Creation and Connectedness*. It is from Ave Maria Press. Two other recommendations for the season are *WHERE IS GOD* by Jon Sobrino and, in keeping with our Phase II of the Year of Prayer, *THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION, Spirituality and Strategies*, by Robert J. Schreiter, C.P.P.S, an Orbis book.

And below is a new poem from Wendell Berry.

Together in prayer,
The Assembly Steering Committee

Look Out

Come to the window, look out, and see
the valley turning green in remembrance
of all spring past and to come, the woods
perfecting with immortal patience
the leaves that are the work of all of time,
the sycamore whose white limbs shed
the history of a man's life with their old bark,
the river quivering under the morning's breath
like the touched skin of a horse, and you will see
also the shadow cast upon it by fire, the war
that lights its way by burning the earth.

Come to your windows, people of the world,
look out at whatever you see wherever you are,
and you will see dancing upon it that shadow.

You will see that your place, wherever it is,
your house, your garden, your shop, your forest, your farm,
bears the shadow of its destruction by war
which is the economy of greed which is plunder
which is the economy of wrath which is fire.
The Lords of War sell the earth to buy fire,
they sell the water and air of life to buy fire.
They are little men grown great by willingness
to drive whatever exists into its perfect absence.
Their intention to destroy any place is solidly founded
upon their willingness to destroy every place.

Every household of the world is at their mercy,
the households of the farmer and the otter and the owl
are at their mercy. They have no mercy.
Having hate, they have no mercy.
Their greed is the hatred of mercy.
Their pockets jingle with the small change of the poor.
Their power is the willingness to destroy
everything for knowledge which is money
which is power which is victory
which is ashes sown by the wind.

Leave your windows and go out, people of the world,
go into the streets, go into the fields, go into the woods
and along the streams. Go together, go alone.
Say no to the Lords of War which is Money
which is Fire. Say no by saying yes
to the air, to the earth, to the trees,
yes to the grasses, to the rivers, to the birds
and the animals and every living thing, yes
to the small houses, yes to the children. Yes.

-Wendell Berry