

REFLECTION - NOVEMBER 30 - ADVENT 1

The reading I chose for this morning is the prologue of the Gospel of John. This is the Gospel of Life. For John, life is relationship, life is communion - especially the life and communion in God, with God, and with each other, The Gospel of John is the Gospel of relationship, as it tells of a growing relationship with Jesus. But it is also the Gospel of transformation. John speaks of love in a unique way.

In our world, the poor, the disabled, the sick are often rejected because of their needs and inability to address them. What do these people want? The profound desire of the oppressed, the poor, the sick, the disabled, is for a true relationship. It is not simply a matter of doing good deeds, or giving them things. True relationship implies helping others to discover who they truly are, respected and loved in their deepest person and called to rise up as they are to find their place in the world or in their community.

The aim of the Gospel is to help every one of us to discover that we are all beautiful children of God. As John writes: All those who believed in him have become children of God.” These beautiful children of God need to find a place where each one can grow in love and develop together, so that they can reclaim the extraordinary dignity of our common humanity, as well as call to become beloved children of God and to work together for the unity of the human family and of creation.

Not all of us have the opportunity like the one Doris had to form relationships on her journey of mercy; a relationship with God and all God’s beautiful children. We are so grateful for Doris’ dedication and outreach to the wonderful people of Madagascar. Thank you Doris, and may God bless you, the work you do, and the beautiful children of God in Madagascar.



Advent Week 1 - Prayer for Hope

Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn't the beginning of that message of hope because the old testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is when we read the story of Jesus' birth in scripture.

Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the salvation that only you, our Heavenly Father, can give when we believe on your Son, repent of our sins, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray.

Amen.