

Peace is...producing good fruit

Isaiah 5: 2,7 "Then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes... he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! for justice, but hark, the outcry!"

Phil 4: 6 "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, ... make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 21: 43 "the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

Reflection:

"What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done?"(Is. 5: 4) God has given us everything! How have we responded? Have we produced good fruit, or will what we have been taken away from us? How do we use our time, our faith, our energy, our money, our talents? Do we consider God's will in our choices? Let us remember that we were created to know God, to love God, and to serve Him. Let us seek His help to do His will, according to the plan He has for each of us.

When we look around, we see a world which is trying to push God and His laws out of nearly every area of life. We see the greed which causes children to be enslaved in the Ivory Coast to harvest cocoa beans for more profitable chocolate sales. We hear that "there are more than 30 million slaves in the world today, more than at any other point in human history."¹ We see startling abortion statistics: 10, 919 babies' lives were intentionally ended within their mother's wombs in Indiana in 2008, 2140 of which were in Lake County alone,² whose mothers ranged in age from 14 to 45 years old.³ We see people trying to change the laws which govern the sacred gift of marriage. We see the need for just immigration laws. We hear that "925 million people across the world are suffering from chronic hunger."⁴

What are we doing to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, yet are being sold or enslaved or killed? What are we doing to shape the laws of our country so that we live in a just society? Are we working toward solutions to address the underlying reasons behind the lack of food, water, and other resources in many places throughout the world?

In the smaller picture, we need to ask ourselves how we are using our gifts to positively affect our local community, our families, and our neighbors. Are we helping others to find God in a world which is pushing Him aside?

Action:

- Participate in one of today's Respect Life events: Life Chain on Ridge Rd.(1:30-3 p.m.); Respect Life Prayer Service at the grotto at IC on White Oak Ave. at 2p.m. [See bulletin for more details.]
- Pray and work for an end to abortion. Provide support to mothers: married and single, rich and poor, with large or small families, of all races...
- Attend the Dark Side of Chocolate presentation in the Mural Room at SJB on Monday, 10/17 at 7 pm
- Donate to the Caps for Kids campaign. [boxes provided in the churches]
- Care for God's creatures: attend the Pet Blessing on Sat., 10/8 at noon in front of SJB.

"I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will remain."

~ Gospel Acclamation

¹ www.NotForSaleCampaign.org/about/slavery ² www.in.gov/isdh/reports/itp/2008/tbl12.htm
³ detailed info obtained from Lake Co. Right to Life. ⁴ FAO report, www.thehungersite.com