

"The spring of love will put an end to all frosts ... " S.M.E.



A FRONT OF WARMTH AND MERCY ...

FACTS: Climatic phenomena are bringing us the polarization of temperatures, with a lot of heat in some areas, and intense cold in others. In the middle of the latest cold front, the news reported that two people lost their lives when they stayed on the street. This awakened our conscience, and the cold of the climate ignited the warmth of our hearts in two urgent directions:

- A conscious and committed look towards what we have done to our planet to disorganize the course of nature and to violate the climatic conditions.
- Many acts of solidarity towards those who suffer most from its consequences: An endless parade of blankets, coats clothes and hot drinks...

STANCE. We can run the risk of avoiding the great social calamities of our environment, but much more serious to naturalize* misery, begging, violence, forced migration, trafficking in persons, and in general the progressive degradation of the nature of citizenship, as if the social and historical construction of citizenship has become a destiny. Solidarity not only requires waves of kindness; it requires the commitment to build the sustainable conditions of justice for all.

"We should live in a society where it is not necessary to weaken some of its people to then discuss the best way to assist them." Ana María Fernández

OUR RESPONSE AS A GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY:

A FRONT OF WARMTH AND MERCY: Our commitment to align ourselves with the Good Shepherd impels us to form a common front, uniting the best of our hearts, our hands, everything we are and have, to become stronger than the cold front, stronger than ideological discourses, stronger than despair, stronger than what is circumstantial.

➤ 1 - Governed by guiding principles: Luke 4:18-19

- Health and wellbeing which dignify, and which are a personal experience of the saving love of Jesus.
- Freedom as an announcement and as an essential experience of the Gospel.
- Vision and lucidity to see beyond a mere attitude of assistance and other blindness that we need to heal from.

➤ 2 – With concrete expressions of solidarity and justice: Isaiah 58

- Break unjust chains
- Clothe the naked
- Free the oppressed
- Not to turn your back on your brothes and sisters
- Break all kinds of oppression
- Share bread
- Turn away the threatening gesture
- Welcome those without shelter

* Naturalize: According to Margarita Poggi: "Means that something has become of the order of the familiar, which no longer surprises us, which we no longer miss. We no longer question why this "something" is normalized ". (Poggi, M 2009 pp 23)

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- **3 – Spirituality embodied with the seal of prophecy:** *"Praying and expecting everything to come from God and not doing anything yourself is not praying. This is laziness; this is alienation. This is passivity, conformity. Many things happen that are not God's will. When people can contribute something of themselves to improve the situation and ask God for the courage to do so, then there is prayer." Oscar Arnulfo Romero 20 July, 1979*
- **4 – Pedagogy of love in the Euphrasian style:** *"Make them happy, very happy... use tenderness, be full of delicacy. Never blame a physical defect or poverty or lack of spirit... Regardless of the color of your tears, know that they are always very bitter. Our profession is patience... Be mothers of these poor girls – they need to see that we love them." Laugier, Odilie. Mary Euphrasia, Who are you? p.206*

(You may conclude with one or both of the proposed prayers)

PRAYER

Oh God, you gave your own heart to Saint Mary Euphrasia
So that she could be like the Good Shepherd on Earth.
Give us your sight as you look upon those whom the world rejects:
So that we can love them with the same heart as your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(In a space of deep prayer, let us mention all the people, or make them present through photos, cut-outs or signs, so that we can look at them with the gaze of God.)

(Liturgy of the Diocese of Angers, cited by Laugier, Odilie. Mary Euphrasia, Who are you? p.20)

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF CHARITY:

"Mary, mother of our people, Mary, good mother,
You walk with us towards the Kingdom we always long for.
Listen to our prayers, there are so many people suffering in our midst.
Bread is missing from many tables, work is missing from many homes.
A roof and decent housing is lacking, water is lacking, so much is missing, Mother.

Encourage our hope that at times falls apart
Because change is slow and difficult.
Sometimes we cannot see the light on the road, and we have to walk tentatively,
Mother, give us your hand, lead us to a full life,
Change the hearts of so many, who, living well,
Forget those who live poorly or do not live,
For there are sufferings that are not life.

Awaken our hearts to active solidarity.
There is so much to do! May your pilgrim image motivate us
From your house to Elizabeth's, regardless of the fatigue of pregnancy,

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Nor the stony roads of the mountain,
Always guided by the life-giving Spirit.

Mother, join our hands, let us grow in union.
Give birth to communities of new life, that the shared work
become the engine of a new way of living, without anyone missing
what is necessary, nor having a scandalous overabundance..
Mother, teach us to concretely help our neighbors,
Our friends, and our relatives every day.

Sharpen our sight so that we see the need of others
and do not focus so much on ourselves.
May we not close our eyes or remain saying:
"What a shame!"
while the television shows us the hunger of so many.
Help us to start small, to share what we have,
to give part of what, by the love of God, we receive and others do not have.

Mother, teach us to overcome the divisions before us.
May the differences not become insurmountable cracks.
Increase our tolerance and our respect for each other,
The person that is different because of their skin color, because of how they dress or where they live.
Show us that we are sisters and brothers, and help us to believe it
and be consistent with it. May we not discriminate against anyone.

Mother, we ask you for our people,
keep us together to avoid being overwhelmed.
Listen to the growing clamor,
commit to those who can lend a hand,
help us believe that it is possible to change for more justice,
if we pledge our life to achieve it.

Mother, give us the strength to make your song to the God of Life a reality,
The God who does wonderful things, knocks down the powerful
and raises up the humble. Mother, for those who suffer among us,
Give us courage to pledge everything for the Kingdom. "

(Marcelo A. Murúa).

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