

## The absolute primacy of God



*“Make ready my heart O God, my mind my senses and my soul, for You.*

*Create silence in me.*

*Deepen in me the breath, the idea of your presence to me until it is certainty*

*Let me hear the message, the word that is to bear fruit in me.*

*Make ready my heart O God, my mind, my senses and my soul, for You.”*

When I began preparing this NGO Prayer, I had different ideas in my mind. But soon I knew: This prayer has to be about our Contemplative Sisters as a result of the Justice and Peace workshops for the Contemplatives which took place in India

and Costa Rica last year and finally in Chile last month.

There was a time when we spoke of the two lungs/wings in our congregation. That though awakened in me the opening prayer: (Deepen in me the breath, the idea of your presence to me until it is certainty.)

In the CGS workshop – on the day of justice – we looked first at the constitutions, what they say about justice. In article 6 I found the wonderful sentence: *We witness to the **absolute primacy of God** ... without a great fidelity to God we cannot succeed in our mission - neither in the direct apostolate, nor in the contemplative way of life.*



Our constitutions reflect well the message also found in the Bible, the Social Teaching of the Church and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The constitutions ask *“that the beauty of God’s image be revealed in each person”* and the Preamble of the UDHR starts with the *“inherent dignity of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”* and in Article 1 it states that *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”*.



Article 45 of the constitutions leads us back to the “absolute primacy of God” and at the same time forward to **justice**: *“It is only out of this intimate union that we act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly in his presence”*. Micah 6:8 gives

us these 3 pillars for a happy apostolic and/or contemplative life.

The Bible is full of verses on justice, and also stories of unjust experiences. I think that we cannot love each other honestly, respecting the dignity of others without walking in God's presence.

Jesus himself defends the "absolute primacy of God" when he cleans the temple "stop using my Father's house as a market" (John 2:11-25).

I invite you to reflect on John 2:11-25 from the situation of Jesus and then in relation to your own situation:

1. What does the temple mean to Jesus?
2. How did Jesus react to the situation of the market in the temple?
3. When you – CGS or RGS – go to the Chapel for prayer is your heart, mind, senses and soul like a market place? - How do you feel - react?
4. What does justice mean in this context – and in your life?

At the end of your reflexion go back to the opening prayer, say it walking in the room where you find yourself, just walk up and down and pray it aloud, humbly walking in the presence of your God. You can repeat it for a few minutes – *"let me hear the message, the word that is to bear fruit in me"*



*Contemplative Sisters - Session in Chile 2013 – "Humbly walking in the presence of God"*

***Reflection submitted by Hedwig Johl, GS NGO Representative in Geneva***