



WESTON PRIORY BULLETIN ~ Fall - Winter 2016



Nuestra Señora del Buen Remedio

Come, let us sing joyfully to our God,
Let us hail the Rock of our salvation.
We come into God's presence giving thanks,
Rejoicing with music and song.

- *Psalm 95 (94): 1-2*

EACH MORNING AS WE SING THIS PSALM AT OUR VIGIL PRAYER, we are aware of the spirit that pervades the whole of our life as monks and followers of Jesus of Nazareth: joy and thanksgiving in the presence of our God. We pray and wish this blessing for your lives especially as we live these days of Advent in preparation for the feast of Christmas.

Amidst difficult times in our country and with so much upheaval and war throughout the world today, we are reminded of the encouraging words of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John:

A woman in childbirth feels stress and pain as her time to give birth arrives. But after the child is born, she no longer remembers her suffering because of her great joy: a child is born into the world. - *John 16: 21*

Mary of Nazareth certainly experienced this as she tried to understand her pregnancy and what the future would be for this child to whom she was giving birth. Yet she did not turn in on herself in fear and apprehension but reached out to others announcing new life in the midst of a mystery beyond understanding. Like the woman in the parable of the unjust judge (Luke 18: 1-8), she persevered in the face of unimaginable odds, treasuring the mercy and justice of God vibrantly pulsing in her heart. No one could take away the joy and thankfulness she knew as she witnessed to the new life giving birth in her.

Shepherds tending flocks on the periphery and pilgrims seeking refuge from the harshness of the desert encounter a hopeful vision for their lives. A little child will lead the way. Follow faithfully, do not be afraid and do not let yourself be paralyzed along the pathway.

Jesus did not give up this pilgrimage, no matter what it cost him. He gathered friends and disciples around him to give him strength to maintain his vision. He entered into the lives of all he met and discovered in others a gift of beauty and truth.

We too feel strengthened and gifted by all of those who come to be with us in prayer and in the search for the reign of God among us. You all are our joy. For you we are very thankful.

Furthermore, in these past months we have been particularly blessed by the visits of three of our sisters—Trinitarian Nuns from Spain: Sisters Maria, Esther and Yolanda; our Benedictine sister from Mexico, Sister Fidelina; and exchanges at a Benedictine Congress in Rome with monastic communities from every continent of the world. Through this bulletin we hope to share with you something of these experiences.

Come let us sing out and joyfully journey forward, for God is with us, walking at the borders, freeing those held captive, and turning over the tables of the misguided. Let us play the music of a mantra-chant; “Sky and earth, stars and streams keep vigil with us.” ■