December 4, 2016
Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10
Rom 15:4-9
Mt 3:1-12

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Questions for Reflection:

Reading 1 Is 11:1-10

✓ What does justice for the poor look like in your parish/neighborhood/city/town/nation?
✓ What is the relationship between the existence of poverty in civil society and in the spiritual life of Catholics?
✓ What make for peace in your parish/neighborhood/city/town/nation?

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

✓ Could this be a prayer for a divided nation?
✓ An appeal for wise discernment for leaders?
✓ In what ways are justice and peace always related to one another? What is needed today for this relationship to flourish?
✓ Who represents a leader who has modeled this relationship? What can we all learn from him or her?

Reading 2 Rom 15:4-9

✓ What is required of all parties in order to have peace within the Christian community/neighborhood/city/town/nation?
✓ What is necessary for inner peace for the baptized?
✓ What helps or hinders us welcoming immigrants and refugees?
✓ In what ways are each of us a immigrant, refugee, or stranger?
✓ Why is there a political divide on welcoming refugees and immigrants?

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

✓ In what ways does John the Baptist’s witness model an authentic Gospel witness for us?
✓ How does the purification and repentance that John preached about remain relevant for us today?
At baptism we are anointed Prophet, Priest, and King. Does Catholic identity today include prophetic witness? Why / why not / if not – should it? See Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1270.

Where can we get the courage to name the evils and injustices of our own time and place?

What are the consequences of tolerating injustices?

What is the “good fruit” that you are bearing?

Someone once said we should “prove by the way you live that you have repented.” Is there a difference between a one-time confession and repentance?

Nelson Mandela once said that humility is within the reach of all and that it is the foundation of the spiritual life. Do you agree?

Think of the holy women and men that have modeled humility

The reformation to which we are called is not limited to inner conversion. We are expected to recognize and alleviate social sin, to bear fruit, to be grain to the world.

See especially § 21 of Pope Paul VI, Populorum Progressio (On the Progress of Peoples) March 26, 1967 http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_26031967_populorum.html


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