



## Dominican Month of Peace

Week 4

December 19 ~ 26, 2021

O Lord of hosts,  
look down from heaven and see;  
take care of this vine, and protect  
what your right hand has planted.

— Psalm 80:15–16



**Poverty Effects 96 % of Households in Venezuela**

[Click here](#) to view video (click video on this page).



Nativity of the Lord, Friday 12/24/21. (Vigil)

Preacher: Fr. Guillermo Méndez, OP.

Topic: Hope. (Dominican family project from Venezuela:  
"Citizenship and Hope")

Biblical readings:

First reading: Is. 62,1 - 5

Psalm: 88

Second reading: Acts. 13.16 - 17. 22 - 25

Gospel: Mt. 1, 18 – 25

God promises to restore justice to him, to do justice for us. He will not shut up. He will not be silent until this is achieved. In this way, He will give us occasion and opportunity to restore the lost dignity, that which was taken from us with the fall. Thus, the Lord promises, in the word of Isaiah, that you will receive a new name, which the Lord himself will give you. By the initiative of the Most High, you and I are and we call ourselves Sons of God, as we will be told in the First Letter of John.

The apostle in his Second Epistle to the Corinthians reminds us that God promises that He will be our Father and we will be his children and it is in this bond with the Lord that we will regain lost meaning; because we are not killed by adverse events or the cares of life. What kills us is the nonsense of life, not having a purpose in life. Well, the Good News is that the Virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son. The Word of God is incarnated and places his dwelling in our midst as we are told in the Gospel of John. He is God with us and, in this sacred bond, we (with Him) are according to God's plan.

For this reason, through the merits of Jesus Christ we are rescued, redeemed and given a new name, the citizenship of heaven, we are made promoters and ministers of the Kingdom of God, apostles of his Gospel and, if we persevere to the end, having the good fight of faith, loving God and our fellow men, faithful to the will of the Father, and filled with the Holy Spirit giving reason for our hope to those who ask us, as we are asked in the First Letter of Peter, we will reach perfection in the charity and eternal life.

Now, what to do about what we see around us? There is so much poverty and injustice in our Venezuela, violation of Human Rights, fractured families. Let's read the prophet Amos, who is identified as a prophet of justice and defender of the poor and oppressed. His book addresses issues such as judgment, speech, worship and social justice. According to the first prophet writer, the Israelite religion established links between the Covenant, dealing with others and obedience to Yahweh. But, at the time of this sacred writer, it seems that the powerful of the Northern kingdom did not understand this and were unaware of the rights of the less favoured, oppressing the poor, making them their victims out of desire for wealth and wealth.

So, what is Amos sent to? What does the first prophet writer denounce? Well, he prophesies against the empty religion that Israel lived, which was evidenced in the social injustice that reigned in the northern kingdom. Neither God, nor Prophet Amos, nor we, nor you nor I, can be indifferent to her. Pope Francis, on the stage of the World Day of the Poor (2017), would argue that indifference would be the greatest sin against the poor. Whoever is indifferent to social injustice does not render a worship pleasing to God with his actions.

What can I do? Be a good child of God, promote the Kingdom of Heaven, living the Gospel and reaching perfection in charity, seeking the common good and a more just society. Do not forget that you will achieve this through the merits of Jesus Christ. Nothing is impossible for God. You do what the Nazarene tells you, following the recommendation of Saint Mary of Nazareth at the wedding in Cana. He acts in tune with the word of God for you. Thus, God's promise calls us to hope.

The Catechism of the Church points out to us: Hope is the theological virtue by

which we aspire to the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in the promises of Christ and relying not on our strength, but on help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. So: Wait, wait, you don't know when the day or time will come. Watch carefully, that everything passes quickly, although your desire makes the certain doubtful, and the short time long. See that the more you fight, the more you will show the love you have for your God and the more you will rejoice with your Beloved with joy and delight that cannot have an end (Saint Teresa of Jesus).  
God bless you.

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(-Emérita del Valle Ávila OP, Mother General of the Congregation Dominican Sisters of St. Rose of Lima, founded in Venezuela.

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