Closing Prayer
God of all creation,
Our world reflects the beauty of the diversity of creation. You have
gifted us with many cultures, languages and races. All reflect the
dynamic and unique beauty coming from your creative generosity.
May our lives, our words and actions reflect our love of the diverse
creation around us, indigenous people around our world, people of all
cultures and races, and the diverse creation that is Earth. We pray
that we may always foster life around us. Amen.

Closing song: "Diverse In Culture, Nation, Race" Ruth Dick GIA
Publications (Gather Comprehensive)

Judy Morris, O. P.   Jolene Geier, O.P.

¿CON QUE DERECHO?

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2011

500th Anniversary Prayer for Advent

Opening Song: "We Are Called"
            - David Haas   GIA Publications   *Gather Comprehensive*

Opening Prayer:
God of our Universe, you call us to remember our journey to this day. We remember the pain inflicted on indigenous people in the Americas. Conquest, subjugation, and abuse of your people mark our history. We pray today for hearts renewed to live justly, respecting the richness and beauty of all cultures. May we learn to walk humbly and peacefully on earth, modeling the truth that we are one—one in dignity, one in value as your creation. We pray this in the name of the One who came to remind us of our goodness. Amen.

Lighting of candles:
Five people will bring up candles. After the first person comes forward and lights a candle, a second person will do the same. Follow this pattern until all candles have been lit.

Music played during this ritual: "Christ Be Our Light"
            – Bernadette Ferrell   *We Celebrate*

First Reading:
 Today, more than ever the question undoubtedly must be repeated: "Aren't they human too?" Through the whole continent of America, the indigenous have been for decades and continue to be the object of more or less systematic destruction. Their culture has been denied them, their lands have been taken over by others, and their organizations have been repressed. Real massacres are not unheard of (Guatemala, Brazil …) The Church continues to treat the indigenous as children: efforts at an authentic inculturation of the Church in the indigenous communities have been stopped (especially since the 18th century) by the attempts to "purify" popular Christianity—a purification which is effectively a Westernization.
From: *Seeing, Touching and Speaking the Truth: The First Dominicans in the Americas,* Brian Pierce

Quiet Reflection

Second Reading:
We must dare to see what is before our eyes: we must believe that it is where God seems most distant and where human beings are tempted by despair that theology may be done. Yet surely our words of hope will only have authority if they are rooted in a serious study of the Word of God and an analysis of our contemporary society. In 1511 Montesinos preached his famous sermon against oppression of the Indians and asked the question, "Are they not human beings:" Montesinos was inviting his contemporaries to open their eyes, and see the world differently. For clarity, compassion is not enough. Hard study was needed to see through the false mythologies of the conquistadores and it was the source of Las Casas' prophetic stand.
From: Timothy Radcliffe, O.P. "The Wellspring of Hope"   1995

Quiet Reflection

Preaching

Quiet Reflection

Petitions
Response: Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for indigenous people in the Americas and around the world who continue to suffer injustice.
R
We pray for our Dominican family, celebrating 500 years of preaching truth to power, that we may continue to stand with the most vulnerable in our midst.
R
We pray for church leaders of all faith traditions that their preaching and action reflect a commitment to bring positive change for indigenous people.
R
We pray for world leaders that they may enact just legislation to improve the lives of indigenous people and undocumented immigrants around the world.
R
Please add your own intentions.