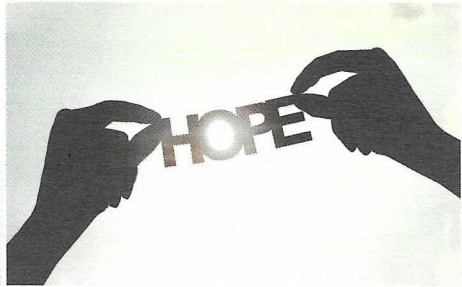


Dear Padre,

There are so many preachers urging us to “reform our lives.” Most of this preaching centers on asking forgiveness for personal sins. Isn’t there more involved?

Consider that the reform more Christians should be focusing on is the social reform that fosters equality among human beings.

A central conviction of all Jesus’ followers is that every person of whatever race, gender, class, nationality, or any other distinction is fundamentally equal in dignity to every other person. That is why we vigorously support the unborn, the disabled, the mentally challenged, the poor, and the elderly. Every human is a creation of God, created in God’s image. No one is better or more worthy than another.



or cultural, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language or religion is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God’s intent” (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World [*Gaudium et Spes*], 29).

If you wish to truly reform yourself, make a commitment to overcome discrimination on all levels, which is so obvious in our country’s division between rich and poor. Get involved with social causes that help the poor, the unborn, the oppressed, and the elderly. Become a beacon of hope this new year.

Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

Calendar

Monday

JANUARY 31
St. John Bosco,
Priest

2 Sm 15:13–14, 30;
16:5–13
Mk 5:1–20

Tuesday

FEBRUARY 1
Weekday

2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b,
24–25a, 30—19:3
Mk 5:21–43

Wednesday

FEBRUARY 2
*The Presentation
of the Lord*
Mal 3:1–4

Heb 2:14–18
Lk 2:22–40 or
2:22–32

Thursday

FEBRUARY 3
Weekday

1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12
Mk 6:7–13

Friday

FEBRUARY 4
Weekday

Sir 47:2–11
Mk 6:14–29

Saturday

FEBRUARY 5
St. Agatha,
Virgin and Martyr

1 Kgs 3:4–13
Mk 6:30–34

Sunday

FEBRUARY 6
Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Is 6:1–2a, 3–8
1 Cor 15:1–11
or 15:3–8, 11
Lk 5:1–11



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The great biblical tradition enjoins on all peoples the duty to hear the voice of the poor. It bids us break the bonds of injustice and oppression which give rise to glaring, and indeed scandalous, social inequalities. Reforming the social structures which perpetuate poverty and the exclusion of the poor first requires a conversion of mind and heart.

JOURNEY TO THE PHILIPPINES, JANUARY 16, 2015