

In the Stillness



December 2013

God of love, Creator of all,
the darkness that covered the earth
has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh.
Make us a people of this light.
Make us faithful to your Word
that we may bring your life to the waiting world.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)

Let us pray

We pray with the Church and the World

Words of Pope Francis (October 18):

Speaking at the morning Eucharist in Santa Marta, Pope Francis reflected on the trials St Paul endured at the end of his life. Pope Francis said Paul wrote that the Lord was close to him and gave him the strength to complete his mission of announcing the Gospel. These later life challenges reminded the Pope of 'the shrines of holiness which are the nursing homes of elderly priests and religious sisters' and 'bearing the burden of solitude, these priests and sisters are waiting for the Lord to knock at the door of their hearts'. He urged all of us not to forget them and to visit them. Let us pray and visit and give thanks.

At this time of Advent and Christmas we remember all who experience loneliness and isolation from family and friends. We pray for those far from home, often without their consent or desire - especially refugees and migrants. May Christian communities extend hands of friendship to them. Especially on December 18th, International Day for Migrants we remember migrants around the world, their efforts, contributions and rights.

World AIDS Day is December 1st and the theme "Getting to zero: zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths" urges us to support initiatives to effect this target.

We pray with the Institute

Constitutions 6.22 to 6.39 speak of the Province/Region Congregations. We keep in mind and heart the words of 6.33: *the province congregation is a significant meeting for the life and growth of the province. Through the bonds of prayer, preparation and participation, all the members unite around Institute, Church and world concerns.*

During this month the first of the Province Congregations begin in preparation for the General Congregation in September. We pray for all members in **India** as they gather in Kolkata from December 28th until January 1st.

In January the region of **Peru** will meet in Lima from January 2nd until the 7th and the province of **Mauritius** meet from 3rd to 8th January.

One Small Voice

Stillness

Stillness will meet you for tea or a walk by the ocean.

You must be gentle when you approach her.

She is more sensitive than we can even imagine and she does not explain herself much.

Sometimes I bring her flowers - not because she needs them

(she tends several gardens) -

but because I am better able to meet her when I am carrying flowers.

Her favourite time is dawn.

Ruth Gendler The Book of Qualities