

“Justice For Laura” Novena - 9 Days of Prayer

Day One



Scripture Passage: “The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God”

He said, “The time has come; the kingdom of God is at hand. Change your ways and believe the Good News.” As Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once, they left their nets and followed him. -MARK 1:15-18

Meditation:

No matter who we are, no matter where we have been, no matter what we have done, Jesus is speaking directly to us in this narrative. We have all sinned, yet Christ proclaims the kingdom of God and calls us to believe in the Gospel. God's kingdom is never one of tyranny, but one of Love, and the Good News is precisely that “God IS Love,” and He holds out the gift of Love to each and every one of us. All that He asks is that we would repent of our sins and turn back to Him, and He will fill our hearts with

that fire of Love which descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost, leaving them all in a state of holy inebriation on the “wine” of God's Love.

It is important for us to remember just what exactly “sin” is. The word itself originates from ancient Greek archery; the archers “sinned” whenever they missed their target. Christians adopted this term because they realized that behind every single sin is a genuine human desire, which is good in and of itself because God put it there, that has simply become twisted and distorted. Whenever we sin, we are actually seeking something good, yet we seek in the wrong places. This may be hard for us to accept at times, but even the most horrific crimes are borne out a good desire of the heart – the sinner simply missed the mark.

Laura's murderer simply missed the mark. Yes, he missed it very badly, but we must recognize that he is NOT, in and of himself, an evil man. God does not create evil men; men do evil things when they “miss the mark.” Laura's murderer may be horribly twisted but he is not evil. His heart, at the very deepest level, is still made in the image and likeness of the God who loves him unconditionally. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may guide him to recognize this, repent, and believe in the Good News of the Gospel. Repentant sinners, we must never forget, usually make the best “fishers of men.”

And we pray for Justice For Laura.

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Abba, Father,

You have revealed Yourself as the God of Love Who desires all Your children to be saved, and Who will run to embrace any soul who sincerely turns back to You.

We lift up the soul of Laura's killer, Your beloved child who has wandered in a far away land squandering the inheritance which You, his most Loving Father, have bestowed upon him. We beg the Holy Spirit to sing Your song of Love into his heart. Speak to his soul of his dignity and beauty as Your child, and give him the confidence to turn back to You in trust and repentance.

We ask this through the infinite merits of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Mercy Whose compassion knows no bounds.

Amen.

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