

Midday Prayer - 290

- 11. 10. 71
- 23. 10. 72
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- 6. 10. 77

Lord Our God (Flare 16)  
 Happy 6th Nov (Temple)  
 Day by Day  
 TAPE (Ave Maria  
 Victoria)

OUR FATHER  
 ANGELUS

Have you ever watched the beginning of a shower of rain on the surface of a calm lake or just a pool of still water? How each drop makes a little ~~spot~~<sup>circle</sup> of its own which immediately widens out and soon intermingles with another circle. And as the raindrops come more quickly, you hardly notice the individual circles any more, but the whole surface of the water is involved in one continuous movement — the rain and the water are united. And when the shower is over and the surface calm and still again, you no longer see where the drops have been, nor can you see any distinction between the water and the rain; they are so completely mixed. A poet wd. say it better I'm sure; but the image I've tried to convey reminds me of people, and the way we interlock with each other, influencing and changing others, and being changed and influenced in our turn. Perhaps it's just a variation on the 'no man is an island' theme. Anyway, it may help to give a necessary concreteness to the 'theory' that all Christians accept, that all men are called to be brothers in Christ, that what each of us does and is has a value in itself in God's eyes and a bearing on the life of the world. If you've ever asked yourself how you can be salt to the earth or a light to the world, really trying to believe that those words of Christ are addressed to you just as much as to His apostles and the 'professional' religious people as you might think of them: if you feel so small and unimportant, so unknown, neglected, unworthy, left out of things that you can't possibly be a person of power and influence in the spreading of God's kingdom and His love, then think of the raindrops. You are not alone: there are all round you

most, unknown to you, thousands of other people who probably feel like you do, wondering how they wd. ever be really effective witnesses for Christ. Yet, you're not chosen by God to be one of His family of friends because of any power or importance or personality you have in the world — rather the reverse, for God chooses the weak to confound the strong, the unlikely in the world's way of reckoning things. Every one of us has a circle in wh. we move most of the time, a circle maybe not unlike the circle a raindrop makes (as we use the same word). We have our own group of friends, acquaintances, relatives, associates, which is never quite the same as that of any other person. And the circle grows, contracts, changes all the time. Your circle, of the people you love or like or remember in your prayers may happen to overlap here and there with mine: but each of us is a centre for a different group, and in turn we look towards different centres... Like a splash of raindrops, radiating outwards, till the whole surface of the earth is interlinked. If everyone you pray for, and in some way influence because of what you personally are, were drawn a little closer to God, and they in turn were a light and season in the circle centring on them, God's love wd. be able to transform the world as He wishes to — the point is, it does depend on human response to His initiative, and we are supposed to be the bearers of His good news and His love. We can't force anyone to listen and respond to God: we can, though, live in hope and faith and love, trying to be what He wants us to be, and in so doing radiate from the centres wh. our hearts are, uniting eventually all men of good will.

perhaps not too inappropriately. "Do shall overcome" [with CHAE-2]

For a prayer in music now, (some of) the 'Gloria' from Missa Enxada - <sup>Kiwango</sup> Gloria to God in the highest, and peace to ~~the~~ people on earth. MUSIC - PRAYERS.  
✓ "Love yr. Brother" from the Album "Le Lou" Something

of the same nation I was describing earlier <sup>was</sup> used by the well-known apostle of social justice in S. America, Dom Helder Camara, the archbishop of Olinda - Recife in NE Brazil. <sup>in a book he issued some yrs. ago</sup> He advocated a campaign, or a movement for social reform, which he called Action for Justice and Peace: there's no fixed plan of action, or constitution or things like that, but a call for people who are concerned to come together, to make themselves known to each other, and so be able to encourage and help each and every effort to bring about justice wherever it is lacking. For, Dom Helder pointed out, there are individuals everywhere who feel isolated and alone in their personal concern for justice and peace, who are sustained by an almost hopeless hope. To bring together these minorities in all walks of life, (Xam Dom Helder likes to Abolish for their hope and trust and the future they hold in their hands) not be to release a power and influence which can transform social structures, because such people are dedicated persons. His Action for Justice & Peace is such an encouragement and bringing together, discovering people who have the same commitments but <sup>are</sup> ~~get~~ unnoticed in the ordinary pressure of systems which don't put much store on real justice or peace. On another level, to bring out the spiritual dimension of life, to be the light of the world, is the call of God who people who have heard it but feel isolated and unable to do what this implies, need the encouragement of everyone's good will, yours & mine, not afraid to be known as disciples of X't.