



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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***Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear;
And I have not rebelled, have not turned back.” (Is 50: 4b-5)***

I immediately thought of S. Maria De Mattias when, in the first reading of today, I read, “God has given me a well-trained tongue that I may know how to speak to the weary.” Indeed, S. Maria preached the Gospel to any kind of weary and broken soul, to minorities, to the marginalized, to women, to children, to illiterate men, and to farmers. She knew what to say to bring people to joyful tears, and to push them to return to God with all their hearts.

We can surely affirm this about all of our founders: *morning after morning, they have opened their ears to God, they have not rebelled* (even though S. Maria is known as the “obedient rebel”), *and they have not turned their backs on God*. But can we say the same of ourselves? How many times are we willing to hand each other over (Mt 26: 15) in the name of power, pride, anger, or even sadness, loneliness, heartbreak?

How disarming is Jesus’ love... In the face of betrayal and distress, he sends the disciples to prepare a warm and welcoming space to have supper together. In a moment of interior loneliness, he is still able to confront the disciples with truth filled of mercy and love - not revenge, not anger, no pushback. It is this kind of radical and genuine love that moves us to become the best version of ourselves!

During this Lent season, let’s ask God and the Holy Spirit to give us the strength and the gift to have a well-trained tongue to speak to the weary, to hear the Word of God each morning and put it into action, to say our truth with mercy, and to speak the international language of Love even when our hearts ache. My heart goes to the people affected by war, global warming, grieving, cyberbullying...

Born and raised in Italy, Sr. Jenny Sellaro is a member of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, a nurse, and serves in various volunteer-based capacities at Newman University in Wichita, KS.

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This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org