

RJ Ignatian Spirituality Morning
Praying with the Universal Apostolic Preferences
UAP 2 – Walking with the Poor
Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Introduction & Welcome

Good morning! Thank you for being here together today to pray with UAP 2. This morning, the Holy Spirit was at work, because the “Blessed Among Us” in my “Give Us This Day” prayer resource is Pedro Arrupe, SJ! It is so fitting that on a day we are coming together to pray with this particular Apostolic Preference, we honor the man who coined the term and called all Jesuit students to be Men/Women for Others. He died on this day in 1991.

I am a bit ashamed to admit this, but I am the privilege of not following the news on a regular basis. Thankfully, one of our colleagues shared this information with me – that our Aurora area schools will be experiencing ICE raids today. So before we begin, let’s take a moment of silence to hold those who are living in uncertainty and fear. (SILENCE)

As we know, in February 2019, Father General Arturo Sosa of the Society of Jesus wrote a letter to the whole Society unveiling our current Universal Apostolic Preferences. In his opening paragraphs, he stated:

The Universal Apostolic Preferences, which I promulgate with this letter, are the fruit of an election. A choice has been made among several possibilities, all of them good. Our desire has been to find the best way to collaborate in the Lord’s mission, the best way to serve the Church at this time, the best contribution we can make with what we are and have, seeking to do what is for the greater divine service and the more universal good.

We know these 4 UAPs to be:

1. To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment;
2. To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice;
3. To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future;
4. To collaborate in the care of our Common Home.

This morning, we will spend time praying with and reflecting upon the 2nd Universal Apostolic Preference: Walking with the Excluded – walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice. Currently, we have our entire junior class out of the building immersed in different communities throughout the Greater Denver Area; we have seniors and adults who just returned from immersions in Panama, Ecuador and Tijuana; and we have seniors on immersion in Kansas City and Memphis. Our students and our colleagues are tangibly embracing UAP 2 and today we pray with them in solidarity holding their experience (as well as our own encounters) at the forefront of our minds and hearts this morning.

SONG: (play) *Least of These* by Matt Maher

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you came not to be served but to serve. You came for the sinners, the poor and the outcasts, the disabled, the weak, the sick and the unwanted. You came for the least, the lost and the last of this world. Help us realize that walking with the poor is not a burden to be carried but a joyful experience to be treasured.

In Your Holy Name, we pray. **Amen.**

READING 1:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' (Mt 25: 37-40)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

PSALM:

Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.

For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?

or who may stand in his holy place?

He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.

Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

READING 2:

An excerpt from Fr. Sosa's Letter to the whole Society regarding the 2019 unveiling of the Universal Apostolic Preferences – Specifically UAP 2.

Sent as companions in a mission of reconciliation and justice, we resolve to walk with individuals and communities that are vulnerable, excluded, marginalized, and humanly impoverished. We commit ourselves to walk with the victims of abuse of power, abuse of conscience, and sexual abuse; with the outcasts of this world; with all those whom the biblical tradition knows as the poor of the earth, to whose cry the Lord responds with his liberating incarnation.

The path we seek to follow with the poor is one that promotes social justice and the change of economic, political, and social structures that generate injustice; this path is a necessary dimension of the reconciliation of individuals, peoples, and their cultures with one another, with nature, and with God.

We confirm our commitment to care for migrants, displaced persons, refugees, and victims of wars and human trafficking. We also resolve to defend the culture and the dignified existence of indigenous peoples.

We join many other people and institutions in promoting a culture of hospitality and of protecting the rights of children and others made vulnerable by changing social structures... We accompany the poor, inspired by our faith in God the Father of mercy who invites us to embrace reconciliation as the foundation of a new humanity.

ADULT WITNESS TALKS:

1 – Adult who accompanies students to the border in Tijuana on immersion for the social documentary course.

2 – Adult who accompanied students on a local immersion to the Tennyson Center – a day (and overnight) center for children who have experienced trauma and have emotional disorders.

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION: We will now spend some time reflecting on the readings and the witness of our colleagues.

Asking ourselves:

- What has been my experience of being with the poor and the marginalized and to what might I be called?
- How do I experience Regis Jesuit as mission of justice and reconciliation?
- Where is the Spirit moving within me right now?
- What are my desires or where might I be feeling resistance?

Prayers of the Faithful:

For our Church and world leaders that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their service to the poor and vulnerable. Give them a discerning heart, bold faith and true wisdom to serve your people. Help them to be generous and large hearted towards the least among us. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For peace in our world. With over fifty nations suffering from armed conflicts, may the peace of God prevail among nations and bring an end to acts of terror and violence.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For immigrants, migrants and refugees, for all those considered strangers in their new lands, may they find sanctuary and dignity as they strive to create a new life for themselves and their families. And may we open our hearts to the plight of those fleeing their homelands.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our juniors and seniors engaged in experiences of immersion and for our adults who accompany them, may their eyes, hearts and minds be open to seeing the face of Christ in everyone they encounter. And may they return to our community willing to share their stories of encounter.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Regis Jesuit community as we continue to engage the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus. May we be open to contemplation, conversion and action as we continue to collaborate with Christ's mission in the world today.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in our community who are sick (Pause)...for those in our community who have died (Pause)...and for all the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts (pause).

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, Hear our prayer.

Good and gracious God, we offer all of these prayers to you. In the name of Jesus our Lord, we pray. Amen.

And now, let us pray the words that Jesus taught us to pray. Our Father...

And let us offer one another a sign of peace.

CLOSING SONG: Least of These or Build Your Kingdom Here