

# Lenten Reflections 2018

The Seven Last Words of Jesus



## The Seven Last Words of Jesus—Week 6: “It is finished.”

**By Sister Inés Villani**

### **Meditation**

“It is finished”—these words from Jesus, uttered from the darkness of his suffering, resonate in our hearts. They offer us peace and serenity that come from the womb of eternity.

“It is finished”—something radically new surges in humanity that gives meaning and expression to the call of the Spirit. It moves us to go far beyond ourselves to live out the qualities Jesus embraced in his life and energy: love, justice, mercy, wisdom and truth.

“It is finished”—in our life and path as people of Mercy, these words from Jesus challenge us to go back to our biblical roots, to be people of “milk and honey.”

Milk is the first symbol of how we nurture and embrace life through love. Honey is the sweetness of life, our love for life, our happiness to be alive.

We are called to knit together a society that gives milk and honey. This is in opposition to what is given to us in our current destructive global economy, which makes so many vulnerable due to scarcity, neglect, hunger, violence, bitterness and endless sufferings.



## **Reflection**

When a woman from a certain African tribe knows that she is pregnant, she enters the jungle with other women and together they pray and meditate until the song of the unborn child appears.

They know that each soul has its own vibration that expresses its individuality, oneness and purpose. The women tune the song and sing it aloud. Then they return to the tribe and teach it to the others.

When the child is born, the community gets together and sings the child's song. Then when it is time for the child's education to begin, the town gets together and sings the song. When the time of marriage arrives, the child, now grown, again hears her or his song. When the soul is going to leave this world, family and friends come to the bedside to sing the song to accompany this transition.

If on any occasion a person commits a crime or aberrant social act, she or he is taken to the center of the town and the people of the community form a circle around this person. They then sing his or her song.

The tribe recognizes that the correction for anti-social behavior is not punishment, but instead the love and the memories of her or his true identity.

When we recognize our own song, we have no desire or need to do anything that could harm others. Your friends know your song and they sing it to you when you forget it. Those who love you cannot be deceived by the mistakes you make or the dark images that you show to others. They remind you of your beauty when you feel ugly; your integrity when you are broken; your innocence when you feel guilty; and your purpose when you are confused. They offer you spiritual and emotional "milk and honey."

## **Invitation**

"It is finished"—these words from Jesus bring us so much fire! It calls to mind this quote from Teilhard de Chardin: "Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness

for God the energies of love, and then, for the second time in the history of the world, [human]kind will have discovered fire.”

Let the words of this reflection inhabit our hearts and our prayer. Let us pray on these questions: How am I writing and living my song of mercy today? Where do I sing it? Who are my beloved?

*Art by Sister Genemarie Beegan*