

PASTOR'S CORNER



May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another.

As we seek and hope for harmony, there are two things I think we need to keep in mind about harmony itself., harmony always involves bringing two different things together. We can be tempted to hear that *the wolf is the guest of the lamb* and assume that means the wolf has become cuddly and even safe – in other words, the wolf is the guest of the lamb because the wolf has become a lamb himself. But that's not harmony – that would just be a kind of dictatorship of the lamb.

In the harmony that God establishes in his kingdom, the harmony he wishes to establish in us, the wolf does not lose his cunning or his strength, the leopard does not lose his swiftness and agility, the lion does not lose his ferociousness – the kingdom of God includes John the Baptist roaring like a lion in the desert just as much as it includes littleness of St. Therese of Lisieux and the quiet patience of the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

And so the harmony that God wishes to bring to our lives is not one that seeks to destroy who we are and turn us into something we are not – it seeks to build on our nature, to purify and elevate those gifts and strengths we have been given – to make of our anger a thirst for righteousness, to make of our stubbornness an obstinacy for the faith, to make of our timidity a meekness that disarms evil, to make of our passions a zeal for the love of God. The harmony we hope for is not something that will make us all the same – it is a concert of all the various gifts God has bestowed perfected and *singing praises to his name* in one accord.

But that highlights the second thing we need to realize about harmony – it can only include that which is good: Our choir doesn't harmonize if people are singing the wrong notes. so while this is primarily a season of hope, Advent is also a season of penance – a season in which we repent of those sour notes in our lives so that there is room for the Lord and his kingdom to enter our hearts.

So join us on Friday! Mercy Night is a perfect opportunity for that penance and purification through the Sacrament of Reconciliation: an opportunity this Advent to encounter *the God of endurance and encouragement*.

In Christ, through Mary,

Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP