



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

December 11, 2024

Fr. Mark Miller, C.P.P.S.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you
and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.”
(Matthew 11:28-30)



Today is the anniversary of a great massacre in El Salvador in the hamlet of El Mozote. This took place in 1981. It began with the Salvadoran troops gathering the people and interrogating them as to any guerrillas or subversives in town. At some point, the decision was made to simply destroy the town and everyone in it. However, one peasant woman, Rufina Amaya, managed to hide among some bushes. She remained there for days watching the massacre, including the murder of her husband and children. Rufina survived to tell the world what happened at El Mozote where as many as a thousand people were killed.

We read many of these kinds of stories in Mexico, Central and South America and other places where such atrocities have taken place and are still taking place. And now we hear that our own government is planning to deport millions of immigrants where many of them will be sent back only to face death itself. What kind of country have we become?

On this Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent, we pray in the Opening Prayer of Eucharist: “Almighty God, who command us to prepare the way for Christ the Lord, grant in your kindness, we pray, that no infirmity may weary us as we long for the comforting presence of our heavenly physician.” This is a prayer meant for all of God’s people. May it be a special assurance to those immigrants fearing to be sent back only to face poverty and even death.

We hear Jesus telling the crowd: “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.” The yoke which Jesus places upon our shoulders is the yoke of forgiveness, of love, of understanding, of compassion, of

reconciliation. This is the yoke which will bring us peace and rest, not only for ourselves but for our nation. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, may we pray that we can embrace the values and way of life of the Prince of Peace.

Fr. Mark Miller, C.P.P.S. is a Precious Blood Missionary and has served the community in many capacities in the United States. He has served in many parishes in the Midwest and continues to offer assistance in local parishes in his retirement. To learn more about the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, [click here](#).

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