

**WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE
LIVING IN A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD**



Does this sign on a Church raise an important reality that we are, in fact, an Easter people living in a Good Friday world? At times we may feel just the opposite. As I reflect, I am able to identify with these seeming contradictions. As horrific images come to mind, the memory of this past Easter Vigil with the lights piercing the darkness in the Church gives me renewed hope and life.

Our media is filled with pictures of children, women and men fleeing bombs and other brutalities. We see the faces of starving children who lack access to food, to clean water and to good medical care. We hear of bullying, of hopelessness, of rapes, of all the 'isms' which show how some people view the human person. When did life become so cheap that we discard the unborn, the sick, the elderly and those in between? People are nailed to Jesus' cross everyday as if they are a disposable burden or people without value.

Can we hear the shouts and the constant cries amid the conflict, mistrust, fighting and divisions? And if we hear, what is our response? We have often been conditioned to look away, to not become involved and to cover our ears to the cries of anguish. We are told by some that we need to build walls to keep the unwanted out, when bridges of understanding and acceptance are the Gospel Call. As Easter people, and as followers of Jesus, how do we reconcile the two obviously opposite positions? Jesus and his faithful disciples show the way. **Become involved! Reach out with respect and touch another through listening, praying with and tearing down divisions!** There is no other way!

Recently I was in conversation with two people who expressed their consternation with immigrants and refugees and the assumed 'toll' they take on our government resources. As I listened to them and tried to understand what was motivating their words and their beliefs, I couldn't help but say, "What would you say if you and your family tried desperately to come into a country that enjoys freedom and safety and you were blocked or misjudged? So many people risk their lives to get away from violence and oppression not of their making."

The conversation paused. Then they spoke of a foreign country's responsibility to take care of and protect its citizens. Yes, this is true! But in the mean time, when many governments are buying weapons instead of food and medicines what happens to the innocent children, women and men caught in the cross fires? Are we not each responsible for one another? In a world growing increasingly violent are we not our sisters' and brothers' keepers?

**Today, how can you be an Easter person in this Good Friday world?
Your contributions matter!**

Sr. Teresa Morrison, CPS