

Comitium allocutio 20.2.22

Spare us, O Lord

Spare us, O Lord, is a frequent phrase in the Bible and in the Church's prayer.

We ask to be spared from two things - from sin in terms of its guilt, that whatever is our fault can be made right.

And spared from the fallout of all the sin of the world; that the world can be a better place; and this can happen only if all nations turn to the one true God.

The two deliverances are related.

My personal sin is my choice, my fault but it will have a social effect; it will affect others, making their lives harder.

The sin of others will make my life harder as the world becomes encompassed in fear and selfishness.

The Legion of Mary brings good news into all this by reminding everyone of the place of Mary, the sinless one, who leads us on a different path, this time free of guilt and fear, and bringing great joy to those who follow her.

Spare us, O Lord, from wrong desires and wrong solutions. Help us instead to see the way of perfection lived by Mary.

It is possible to be free of personal guilt yet still be subject to the negative fallout of the sin of others.

We have never seen a society free of sin, a society we could then call the kingdom of God. We pray for this, and we also work for it, by fighting our own battles with temptation and winning them by the power of God.

The Legion takes on the hard cases, seeking in any way possible to influence others to see the way of holiness as better than present ways.

At all times we ask God to alleviate our sufferings - the suffering caused by our own guilt, and that by the guilt of others.

Spare us, O Lord, from the punishment the human race deserves.

Imagine the whole Church filled with committed, faithful and courageous people; with the courage that comes from love, willing to lay down their lives; and it is this Church we are seeking.

As Legionaries, we do not impose our faith on others, as if seeking anything for ourselves. We make the faith known simply because it is true. We desire that others will know what we have discovered.

May this coming Lent be a time of renewal for all who dare to follow Our Lady – full of grace, free from sin.