

## REFLECTION - WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

(Luke 10:25-37)

This passage relates the conversation between Jesus and a lawyer who longed for eternal life. He asked Jesus what he should do, to get eternal life. Jesus told him a series of things to be done and ends the conversation by telling him to love the neighbor as he loves himself. And the man asks Jesus “who is my neighbor?” Jesus responded to the question by giving him the parable of the good Samaritan. A man was on his way from Jerusalem, he was attacked and beaten to death by thieves and abandoned on the way. The Levite and the priest, the Levite and the priest, the religious leaders, the most knowledgeable of the law saw him but did not assist, they passed by. But a Samaritan, someone who was not considered by the society of the time saw the man and took care of him.

In telling the parable, Jesus was saying that to love your neighbor is to care for his/her needs. The Samaritan attended to the wounded and vulnerable man. In doing so, he acted to restore the man. To follow Jesus is to love our neighbor as ourselves. This means attending to their needs. Attending to the needs of those who are vulnerable is helping to restore them and their dignity.

When civilians, inoffensive people, are attacked by those who are heavily armed, aren't they vulnerable? When people are without shelter, without food, without medicine aren't they vulnerable? This is the case for the Congolese in Eastern Congo who live in Internal Displaced camps where there is no clean water, children do not go to school, access to food is difficult, aren't they vulnerable? Who is the neighbor to Congolese people in Eastern Congo? Vis-à-vis to the suffering situation of the Congolese

people in Eastern Congo what kind of behavior are you going to exhibit? That of the Levite and the priest or that of the Samaritan?

God bless you!

## PRAYER FOR THE CONGO

Father God, we come before you with brothers and sisters from the Democratic Republic of Congo. More than two decades, we are tired of seeing blood shed from the people of Congo in its Eastern part. We join our voice with theirs to call for your special intervention. The conflict in Eastern Congo has caused over 500,000 internal displaced Congolese without shelter, without food, without clean water. The future of children is sacrificed since there is no school in unfortunate settlements.

Lord, cause empathy in us so that we feel what our brothers and sisters in Eastern Congo are feeling. May your Holy Spirit comfort all Congolese who are experiencing hardship due to unjust war and conflict imposed on them. As a congregation, we stand together with the people of Congo in prayer.

Leader: For not being sensible for the suffering of the people of Congo,

All: Lord have mercy on us.

Leader: Congo is a rich country, multinationals and greedy people are attracted with the vast range of minerals of Congo on the expenses of lives of the Congolese people,

All: Lord have mercy on us.

Leader: For not being the keeper of our brothers and sisters as the hordes are devouring them,

All: Lord have mercy on us.

Leader: Lord life is sacred. But every single day your sons and daughters in Eastern Congo are being slaughter like goats to death, women, girls and even baby girls are being raped without any assistance,

All: Lord have mercy on us.

Leader: For those who mourn their loved ones and who need your comfort and healing from trauma situations,

All: Lord, have mercy on us.

Amen!