

# PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

## Pray with Mexico, Sunday, July 19, 2020

BY [CINDY MORAGA-SELVA](#) ON JULY 13, 2020

**Lectionary Selection: Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43**

### Prayers for Mexico:

Thank you, God, Father, and Mother of creation, for allowing us to be participants of your kingdom of justice, mercy, and faithfulness to you.

Thank you for revealing the mysteries of your kingdom through your Gospel that reveals the good news of life and liberation.

Thank you for the communion and solidarity that unite us like wheat from the same sower, recognizing us as the same body, a sign of your presence in the world.

Thank you for your Gospel that reminds us that your kingdom of life and justice has arrived, that it is a reality in this world wounded by personal and social sin.



By reading your Gospel, we want to affirm our commitment to your work, as is it presented to us in the parables as a precious gift. We want to collaborate in your mission to promote and defend life, living like Jesus, passionate about life. We want to be like the grain of wheat, which must die to bear abundant fruit and be reborn to a new and full life. We want to become bread that is broken and shared as a sign of justice and mercy.

We pray that your kingdom will come to us, and the world can enjoy a time (Kairos) of blessing, health, and renewal. May your realm come! And with it, a time of conversion, a time of profound and radical changes so that peace and justice can be reborn. May your kingdom of life encourage us to follow the example of Jesus, who came to bring us full and abundant life, who opposed everything that denies presence, and who gave himself for the love of the world.

Amen.

### Mission Stewardship Moment from Mexico:

Chapter 13 of the Gospel of Matthew contains the "Parables of the Kingdom." The kingdom is not presented as a definition or an abstract theory. The kingdom is born from the very experience of life. The examples used by Jesus to speak of the arrival of the Kingdom of God are taken from the daily life of the people: fields, crops, farmers, shepherds with their flocks, fishermen in their work, and women kneading the dough to make bread. The Kingdom of God has arrived, and it is good news for the people, especially for the smallest and most vulnerable, for the sick, the marginalized, and those who suffer due to unjust and oppressive policies and laws. The signs of the Kingdom in Matthew are, therefore, the practice of justice, mercy, and faithfulness to God as an echo of the prophetic demands (Matthew 23:23; Hosiah 6:6; Micah 6:8). In this time of suffering and uncertainty that the world is experiencing, the words of Jesus become more relevant, as they invite us to reaffirm the loving presence of God among us. Churches and Christian institutions in Mexico are reinventing themselves to continue carrying out their work of accompanying individuals, families, and communities during the health crisis caused by COVID-19. As in any emergency, there have also been many opportunities to embody the Gospel and the example of Jesus. Valuable experience from the Theological Community of Mexico, through its Graduate Studies of Accompaniment and Chaplaincy, is the creation of different virtual groups of psycho-pastoral support. The groups accompany people and families who are suffering from various situations generated due to the pandemic: illness, death, abandonment, loss of employment, anguish, and depression. The network of support is coordinated by students of the Graduate Studies of Accompaniment and Chaplaincy. The accompaniment includes the sharing of concerns and needs, as well as the accomplishments and lessons learned. They are also essential spaces to pray for each other and transmit words and gestures of comfort and encouragement. Without a doubt, the initiative has made a difference by connecting us as the same body, feeling solidarity and feeling close despite social distancing.

In light of the parable we have read, we know that in times of crisis, the worst (weeds) or the best (wheat) of us can arise. Let us pray that in this time of darkness, the light of God illuminates our lives and makes rivers of living water flow from us. May God allow us to be signs of his presence in a world marked by the absence and denial of justice and by the constant threat to life. We are the first fruits of his realm to build a new, more just and fraternal society. Amen.

*Prayer and Mission Moment by Cindy Moraga-Selva*

