

A Litany for Enemies

**“I tell you, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors.”
(Jesus)**

~ You who are members of street gangs, drug cartels and organized crime, who believe that you are accountable to no one and that you can live your lives without consequences...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

~ You who have created trafficking of girls to satisfy your lust and your greed, who believes that your privilege entitles you to exploit, dehumanize and pay for human flesh...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

~ You who feed on the desperation of those who are poor and make false promises of safety, while knowing that your word means nothing...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

~ You who threaten, kidnap, rape and murder with impunity, who believe that money will buy you happiness and save your soul...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

~ You who are members of security forces and military personnel who interrogate and torture other human beings in the name of national security...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

~ You who have no respect for ‘cease fires’ and for humanitarian considerations, who thrive on revenge, retaliation and winning at all costs...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

~ You who ravage the earth with strip mining, fracking, excessive waste and lack respect for natural resources, who believe that profiteering justifies environmental degradation...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

~ You who enjoy political machinations and party politics at the expense of the common good because you believe that effective dialogue with a heart for the welfare of your people is not compatible to your political aspirations...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

~ You who weave clever lies to justify wars and military aid, who strangle poor countries in debts, and who impose harsh sentences and solitary confinement on those who are vulnerable...

All: May the God of Compassion give you insight into the truth of your life.

May the God of Compassion give us all insight into the truth of our lives.

Let us pray together:

At time, O God we are our own enemies:

- ~ cursing our vulnerabilities,
- ~ bemoaning the fragility of our own bodies,
- ~ not wanting to see and admit our own goodness and giftedness
- ~ not taking proper care of ourselves, (Pause)

At times, we are enemies of each other:

- ~ imputing motives,
- ~ making judgements,
- ~ being close minded,
- ~ having a short fuse and too frequently erupting in frustration and anger,
- ~ always wanting what we want,
- ~ being controlling and difficult to work with,
- ~ playing it safe and not really saying what we believe, (Pause)

At times, we are the enemies of our sacred planet:

- ~ taking earth, water, air and fire for granted,
- ~ lacking gratitude for those who work the land,
- ~ ignoring calls to buy and shop at Fair Trade establishments,
- ~ not taking climate change seriously, (Pause)

At times, we are the enemies of our own race and cultures:

- ~ imposing standards on others that we think is 'right'
- ~ wanting to 'fix' things to go our way,
- ~ not wanting to admit that our internalized racial oppression and our internalized racial superiority is a barrier to the creation of the Beloved Community envisioned by You. (Pause)

Forgive us our blindness...our stubbornness and our constant willingness to point out to others what is wrong with "them" and not willing to look honestly at ourselves and make the changes we need to make to be more authentic women and men of your Gospel.

We count on you O Holy One to give us insight into the truth of our lives. AMEN



(Written by Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN)