

Come Lord Jesus

He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ~Revelation 22:20

"Awwwwwww..." The barely audible and eerily frightening sound seemed to be coming from inside Ann's house. Ann, 86 years old and frail, lives with her seriously ill son, John, a former Fresno County Sheriff. I had just dropped off a much needed prescription for John that evening. He and I were engaged in conversation at the back door when we both heard that strange and unexpected sound. Immediately John went inside the house and I quickly followed. Once inside, I saw John kneeling beside his mother who was lying on the floor. She was pleading with John, between softly spoken cries of pain, "Don't leave me." And we didn't. "Please, Lord, help me," she pleaded. And we prayed together. *Come Lord Jesus.*

At the hospital, Ann was examined and we were told that she had broken her right femur (thigh bone) and her right hip. The surgeon operated to repair the breaks and within one week Ann was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital. Ann made little progress at the rehabilitation hospital. Her fall had taken a physical toll on her. Besides still being in a fair amount of pain, her body was weakened by the fact that she was not eating or drinking enough. And as far as she was concerned, she was ready to be with her Lord. Frequently, when John or I would visit her she would say over and over, "I want to go home!" Then she would raise both her arms hands turned upwards toward the ceiling and say, "Take me Jesus, PLEASE!" John and I both realized at that point, that Ann was indeed ready and had begun her journey home to God. *Come Lord Jesus*

Ann's final journey was a journey of love, the incarnated presence of our Lord Jesus. That presence was palpable in the daily visits John made. Oxygen strapped over his shoulder and seated in a wheelchair, I would bring him up to see her. With all the strength he could muster he would see to her needs, hold her hand while gently talking to her and assure her of the peace she would know once she entered into God's kingdom. *Come Lord Jesus!*

After John visited his Mom, I would visit with her. We would recite the 23rd Psalm together, *Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.* She would turn to me at times and say, "Help me. I'm scared." And I would bring out some beautifully scented lotion and

massage her hands and feet and say, “Ann, you know when you meet Jesus you want to smell like a lady, a lady that is sweetly loved by her Lord.” *Come Lord Jesus!*

Less than a month after her fall, on November 16 of this year, Ann went home to Jesus. Her final days were a testament to the Incarnation--love made real and facilitated by the work of the St. Benedict Catholic Worker.

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker knows and lives in the reality that Jesus’ love, his presence is with us every day, every hour, every minute. We minister to that reality whether it is as care givers for a Fresno County Sheriff and his elderly mother, the thrice weekly soup line on the steps of the jail, Halloween celebration for “kids” of all ages with the students from San Joaquin Memorial High School, emergency food distribution from our Catholic Worker pantry, holiday food boxes passed out at our parish, St. Mary’s in Fresno, special liturgies (Archbishop Oscar Romero and Fr. Mychal Judge OFM) at St. Mary’s to evangelize our parish, overnight hospitality at our CW House or a weekly dinner and round table discussion open to all at the CW House. *Come Lord Jesus!*

Our ministry is dependent on the awesome generosity of God given through your support. Your donations go directly to those we serve—we are an all-volunteer organization. The money you donate goes for things like expenses incurred in care giving (i.e. gas for taking John to doctor’s appointments, medical equipment he cannot afford, supplemental food, help with prescriptions, etc.); for food and cups, plates and plastic utensils for our soup line and food for our emergency food pantry; items for special liturgies (holy cards, pictures, pamphlets, etc.); and badly needed (yet still *not* done) repairs to our kitchen and guest bathroom. Contributions are tax deductible.

Will you help us bring Christ’s love to those in need so that *Come Lord Jesus* continues to be a reality right here and now for all those in need of his loving presence? Merry Christmas--Come Lord Jesus,

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker Community