



***PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE***  
*Breaking with the Old,  
Making the New*

A new year offers new hope. Whatever nostalgia we have for the past, each year's end provides an opportunity to take stock, make new promises, set new goals, and develop new relationships. However, for all too many people much will remain the same: Lack of human rights, poverty, oppression, and violence will continue to mark their lives.

As God's people we are invited to renew our discipleship, to dream of a new community, to repent of our complicity in injustice, and to rededicate ourselves to the cause of the saving justice of God.

The stories of Herod, the wise men, and the holy family together demonstrate the way things are in the world. The wise men, Joseph, and Mary represent those who obey the signs of promise and look for a new order. Alternatively, Herod stands for the powerful who seek a new world order through cynicism, cruelty, and oppression.

What was true then is true now. We continue to need visions of a new city uncontaminated by idolatry, oppression, and death. Discipleship is about knowing and doing God's will. To "know" God means to do justice. Mary, Joseph, and the babe represent the new household of God, the church. It is the church that Paul understands as helping the principalities and ruling forces to learn how many sided is God's wisdom (Ephesians 3:10-11). The call of the prophet in each generation is to "arise, shine out, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you."

### **Reflection and Action**

Who represents the powerful in our world today? Who opposes the powerful by the doing of justice? How can you take courage from the stories of the wise men, Joseph, Mary, and Paul the prisoner? What are the signs from God that enable you to hope and work for a new order?

*Excerpted from Living the Word, "Breaking with the Old, Making the New" by Peter B. Price*

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*Next Social Justice Mtg.: Thurs. 1/25/06; 7:30-9:30, Rm. 227*