

Office for prayer in connection with the Jewish people

Thursday, January 04, 2024

Jews and Gentiles

The first "encounter" that God brought about for his young Church, all of whose members were, like Jesus himself, sons of the Jewish people, was with the Gentiles. In a way that was both disconcerting and insistent, the Spirit had to compel the apostles to proclaim the Gospel to these uncircumcised Gentiles, so that they too could become disciples of Christ, members of a Church that would henceforth have to understand itself as "composed" of Jews and Gentiles.

**Extract from the book by Jean Marc Aveline, archbishop of Marseille,
Dieu a tant aimé le monde - Petite théologie de la mission, Cerf, 2023,
page 87-89**

INTERCESSIONS

R. Amen, amen, blessed be the God of Israel!

Or another refrain.

1. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who mourned the violence between Cain and Abel, we pray to you for peace in the Middle East, we pray to you for all the peoples who inhabit this land where you have chosen to join us in our humanity.
2. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who made reconciliation possible between Joseph and his brothers, forgive us for all our contempt for your people Israel. (As a sign of penitence, we remain silent for a few moments). We ask you, Father, to make brotherhood grow between the Jewish people and the nations.
3. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who brought Israel out of Egypt and set them free, give your joy to the Jewish people and keep them faithful to your Covenant.
4. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who united the twelve tribes of Israel around the Torah, give peace to Jewish believers in Jesus.
5. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who sent your Son Jesus to save us, rest your blessing on Christians of Jewish origin.
6. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Father of Jesus Christ, you who gave your beloved Son so that all might be one, bring together in unity all the Christian Churches.

7. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who promised the Jewish people the coming of the Messiah, you who promised the Church the return of your son. We praise you and we say in the Holy Spirit: "Maranatha, come Lord".