



Sometime this Holy Week most of the Christian world will hear a powerful statement from the Hebrew Bible. *"Redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea and defend the widow!"* (Isaiah 1:17)

There are a lot of terrible things happening on our planet. Each of us has different situations that hold our attention when we hear about them or see something in the paper or on TV. What hits you hard? I know for me personally it usually has to do with a young child looking up at an adult who might guide him or her out of a horrible situation. On my desk is a picture I clipped out of something. It shows a woman with three children walking along the railroad tracks at Auschwitz. The children are following her with confidence as they always have. She knows this is the last time.

I recently saw something just as powerful filmed in Syria at night using that eerie green light. The young boy, about eight years-old, is in a group attempting to escape into Lebanon. He is looking at his young mother for direction. That boy's face is one I cannot get out of my mind. We are told his father had been stopped at the Syrian checkpoint and shot. This Muslim mother is trudging

onwards exactly like the Jewish mother in the 70-year-old picture on my desk. Will it never stop?

The Catholic biblical scholar Carroll Stuhlmueller (1923-1994) wrote that those words from Isaiah “symbolize in the Bible all the helpless and indigent people of the world.” So what do we do? It begins by not averting our eyes or attention from an unpleasant situation right in front of us!

Brother Toby

From Brother Toby's STEPPING STONES: Daily Reflections by an Unconventional Monk.

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