

# Companions IN PRAYER



Sisters of St. Clare  
Saginaw, MI

In the Gospel from Mark MK 10:35-45, we read about a discussion between Jesus and his disciples, James and John. They ask Jesus, “may we sit next to you in your kingdom?”

We can understand the disciples desire to be close to Jesus. All of us sometimes like to be seen with important people who have power and authority.

This is one way we can enhance our own self-image. For instance, from time to time we might even use name dropping to give the impression to others that we know important people and therefore are important people as well.

However, Jesus answers the disciples question about whether they can be close to him in the Kingdom of Heaven by letting them know that the kingdom of God is not about how important they are, but rather about how willing they are to be a servant to others. He has come to show them what it is like to live in the Kingdom of God. “Whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.”

Jesus lets his disciples know that there is no ranking in the Kingdom of God, no first or last. We are a community of equals. I am reminded of this truth when we step up to receive communion at Mass. The ushers help us to know when to approach the altar. They do not call forth what some might consider “privileged people” to receive communion first. For example, they do not first call forth people

who have donated large amounts of money to the church, or those who have been elected to the Parish Board. Rather we rise to go when we are directed to do so. We step forward as equals together to receive nourishment for the trials and challenges we face daily.

In this gospel reading, Jesus turned upside down all the disciples’ expectations about who would be first and who would be last. He showed them a new way to live and to view the world. He reminds us all “The Son of Man

did not come to be served, but to serve.

(We are interested in your thoughts. Let us know at:  
<http://srsclare.com/about-us/companions-in-prayer-newsletter>)

*Sr. Laura and Sisters*

## COMMUNITY OF EQUALS



*Welcome to the Season of Advent*  
**ADVENT CALENDAR  
BEGINS DECEMBER 2ND**