

“The Agent of Change”

(Jeremiah 18:1-11)

One interpretation or meaning behind the sacred words when God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...” (Gen. 1:26) is that humankind becomes not only a product of creation, but they themselves become creators. God, the great divine Creator, creates small miniature versions of itself to be agents of change. We are made in the image of God. What is this image? It is being a creator like God creating and causing good things to happen.

The Prophet Jeremiah who lived between 627-580 B.C. wonderfully depicts this image of God creating and recreating new things out of old things (Jer. 18:1-11). Here, God is wanting people to take their old “spoiled” hearts and to turn them into a new “reworked” hearts using their own hands like that of the potter. Jeremiah’s description of the potter, the wheel, and the clay sets us as God’s representatives for positive change in our lives and in the lives of others. The potter represents a purposeful worker. The turning wheel symbolizes the movement of changing the world’s circumstances. The clay being fashioned, whether it be “spoiled” or “reworked” in the hand of the potter, is our potential as agents of change.

The positive goodness society offers people depends upon us in how we, the Church, reshape a broken health care system in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic, in how we restructure economic inequality with mass unemployment and poverty flourishing, in how we rebuild a new criminal justice system where racism and prejudices are sponged from our psyche, and in how we redirect climate change to save our Earth’s natural environment so humankind doesn’t become extinct. We are agents of change, because God has given us the ability to create and recreate new and good things.

God has put us in control of this world. God created us in His divine image to do so. What does being an agent of change look like? Attitude. Jesus says, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Mt. 7:12). This biblical phrase, “The Golden Rule,” is our divine power of creativity. This is our divine image of God calling for us to be agents of change.

Amen.