

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

# FAMILY STORIES

### In the Shadow of the Word



(c) Kim Ok Soon

'I feel very sorry for this father because neither of his children behave well towards him:

The younger one asks him for his inheritance as if he were in a hurry to hasten his death. He squanders it badly. He returns home because he is hungry and knows that he will not lack food even if he has to work there as a labourer. He returns slowly but the father rushes out to meet him, covers him with kisses and throws a party.

And the older son, even worse: he hadn't even realised how much his father loved him. He felt like a servant in his own house, even though his father had told him the greatest thing anyone can say to another: "You are always with me and everything that is mine is yours".

I think that the father deserved to have a 'third daughter' who really loved him, who never doubted his affection, who was always by his side, and when he called her would say with joy, 'Here I am, father!'

### Women who accompany us on our journey

Ruth and Naomi are two women open to relationships, motivated by feelings of love and solidarity, prophetic figures who both announce and bear witness to the victory of the good that comes from God, the triumph of life over death.

The whole story unfolds in an atmosphere of simple everyday life: it is the story of a poor family that lives through tragedies without making a big deal of them, and faces the hardships of life together with humility and love. Forced to leave their land because of hunger, the two widowed and childless women return to Bethlehem to face their reality of barrenness, helplessness and hopelessness.



God breaks into this reality with his wonders. Although poverty and everyday life remain, everything is transfigured. The story reveals the message of goodness and faithfulness that transforms reality and opens it up to the fulfilment of salvation.



Schmatz, Unnoticed Angels, St. Peter's Square, Vatican City

“As women apostles of the 21st century, God is calling us to move with people who are on the move. People carrying enormous grief, who are looking for peace, for bread, who must learn other languages and immerse themselves in other cultures. In solidarity, we can create spaces for them and with them, together sharing in a journey towards equity and justice for all.”

*(General Chapter 2024)*

**“God, almighty Father  
we are your pilgrim Church  
journeying towards the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Help us never to stop walking  
with our migrant brothers and sisters  
towards the eternal home you have prepared for us.  
Open our eyes and our hearts  
so that every encounter with those in need  
may also become an encounter with Jesus’.**

Let us listen to the song [Bienaventurados \(Beatitudes\) by Ignacio Yepes](#)

*Dolores Aleixandre rscj  
Spain*

