



Uruguay, November 16, 2020

POLITICAL CRISIS IN PERU

Peru, our sibling nation, is mired in a profound crisis and in the uncertainty of death and suffering. Already victimized by a high incidence of COVID-19 infections and death, Peru now finds itself in a political crisis that has further undermined the credibility of government institutions and weakened its democratic systems. We see a people who are “like sheep without a shepherd” (Mk. 6:34), while their leaders rush to amass power and plot self-serving schemes behind the backs of the people (Mk. 6:21-29). The destitution of President Martín Vizcarra and subsequent resignation of Manuel Merino, appointed by parliament as his successor, are very different cases. Vizcarra was removed from office, accused of corruption by a parliament who were themselves seeking to bury corruption charges. Merino was forced to resign because of massive demonstrations and the repressive violence he ordered against protestors.

Peru’s political system will find no solutions to the current crisis if it continues to shelter corruption, impunity and the major business deals that extract great wealth from Peru’s natural resources while leaving scant benefits for the majority of the population. Jesus compared the leaders of his day with those that steal, kill and destroy although they come dressed in sheep’s clothing (Jn. 10:10a). The current situation in Peru certainly fits this image. We pray for the people of Peru and that God might raise up among them leaders who seek to serve the population, show compassion for the vulnerable, are sensitive to God’s creation, and are committed to justice.

We pray that these leaders might carve out in the midst of so much injustice new paths where **“justice roll(s) down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream”(Am. 5:24)**. We pray for all who have lost loved ones in the demonstrations and we await justice for those whose actions caused injury, death and disappearances. We invite our member churches, sister churches and other faith communities to accompany Peru in prayer and call on all people of good will to stay alert and active in response to the situation in our beloved sibling nation, Peru.

Rev. Darío Barolin
Executive Secretary

