



Mary Belle S. Beluan

Dawn – at the Dusk of our Day

*Once more the day ends,
as this year's report is offered to you.*

*With our thanks to each of you
who have been with us through thick and thin
is our continuing invitation to stay;
and to those who are part of us but have left,
is our beckoning to return:
Share again our hope and vision of yet another
dawn.*

*We hear some of you say,
dear fellow Bishops and fellow Businessmen,
that you want to leave,
that you'd rather bring our life to a close,
since you no longer see the relevance
of our Conference.*

*But where is our value to be found
except in our hearts and in our hands?
Who is to bring meaning except our own souls?*

*If you go, if we fold up
who shall speak for those who cannot speak?
Who shall stand up for those who have no
strength to rise?*

*May we not have to repeat in our lifetime
what Martin Niemueller once sadly said in his:*

**"In Germany, they came first for the
Communists,
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.
And then they came for the trade
unionists,
and I did not speak up
because I was not a trade unionist.
And then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak up
because I was not a Jew.**

**And then ...
They came for me.
And by that time, there was no one left
To speak out for me."**

*In Europe, as we know, the Union's life has been shaken.
Do we want a similar thing for us?
In our country, a new leadership has begun.
Are we to refuse to participate?*

*No.
Let us together say NO.*

*We cannot die. We should not surrender.
Not in the face of the papal call to find or find again
The Joy of the Gospel in our hearts
and share it in our lives.*

*With Benedict XVI we affirm
we cannot close our eyes
to the needs of our neighbor;
for if we do, we blind ourselves to God.*

*With Pope Francis,
we ask Mary, Star of the New Evangelization
to help us "bear radiant witness to communion,
service, ardent and generous faith,
justice and love of the poor
so that the Joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth."*

*We pray to God to show us our place in the world
as channels of His love,
to seize us with His power and light
and help us prepare for the coming of His Kingdom
by working for, striving after
Inclusive Growth and Total Human Development.*

*In the world, Jesus had said, we would have strife,
but He told us not to be afraid
for He has conquered the world.*

*In hope and confidence we thus sing
"Morning has just begun ..
It is the dawn of the morning of time ..."*