

two monuments

berlin during the week of the vote on SB399

there are two images
that have stayed with me
the first is the monument
for all the jews killed
during the war

when you walk
through the maze
of square blocks
it is too much to absorb
feeling the weight
of what happened
while decent
christian people looked on

the second image
was when we spoke
in the jesuit community
about the work we do
and the sentences
we give to kids of color
sentences
for kids
who will die
in prison

the jesuits asked
does this happen
while good christians
turn their heads
the other way
just like they did in germany?

Your leaders need
to come here
to this monument
in berlin
to see for themselves
what happens to a generation
when no one
stands up
and says it is immoral
an offense against god
to kill a human life
or give life sentences to kids

but is content
to wear a look of blind compliance
to a system
that destroys lives

we have not learned
from the concentration camps
we have not learned
how sinful it is
to bow down
before the idols of death
to a temple of oppression

madonna
as you bring comfort
to so many
who have had their hearts broken
by war
may you also bring comfort
to those in the world
where our sons die in violence
and we continue
to carry out orders blindly
to eliminate our sons

madonna
of the one who gave his life
so that we might have life
do not leave us alone
be with us through this darkness
