



**ST. JOSEPH SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES**  
**A Congregation Ministry**  
**of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston**

**Staying Connected in this Uncertain Time**

As we carry on here at St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries in remote locations, we are taking some contemplative time to reflect on a favorite Scripture passage that has held meaning for us in past difficulties and what it may be saying or inviting us to look at in new ways during this global crisis.

**Annie Kaufmann, CSJ, is writing for us from her ministry in New Mexico. She offers a bit of the CSJ story there...**

*“Although we Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston are a diocesan community, there was a need in Santa Rosa, NM in 1950 for Sisters to staff the new parish school. Coincidentally it was the 300th anniversary of our Community's founding in LePuy, France. In honor of that occasion, Mother Euphrasia generously offered four Sisters for this new mission. I arrived in 1974 for a two-year commitment. Unfortunately, the school closed in 1978, but I am still ministering here in the parish of St. Rose of Lima. Helen Halligan, CSJ, retired from here to Boston in 2010.”*

**“My grace is sufficient for you.” 2 Corinthians 12:9**  
**by Annie Kaufmann, CSJ**

**I**n the past, when I joined in singing “Take, Lord, Receive” by John Foley, SJ, I would mentally cross my fingers lest the Lord heed my prayer. How could I possibly ask the Lord to take **my liberty** especially the freedom to grow and minister afforded by my being a member of our CSJ Community; **my memory** faulty as it is becoming; **my understanding** since I’m not the brightest crayon in the box; **my entire will**, so stubborn and unbending?

However, through old age or threat of Covid-19 or the Holy Spirit, I’ve taken to heart 2 Cor. 12:9 “My grace is sufficient for you”, and soon St. Ignatius’ “Your love and Your grace, are enough for me” became my mantra.

In mid-March when all parish plans and programs were put on hold, and life as usual was totally disrupted by the pandemic, my prayer focused on St. Ignatius Loyola’s prayer “Suscipe.” “Take, Lord, receive” also my perfect plans for five weeks in Boston visiting Community, teaching lace lessons, enjoying vacation, making an Eastern Point retreat, none of which will materialize this summer. “Lord, You have given all to me.”

I’m trying to return it graciously. Some days are easier than others. Then the shock of the sudden loss of eight of our Sisters and the especially poignant death of Helen Halligan, CSJ, with whom I lived for 36 years here in New Mexico begs for more of my letting go.

You may already be familiar with a reflection Mary Gaudet, CSJA, gave me called “Let Your God Love You” from one of her Associate prayer services. In it, too, I have found comfort:

**Let Your God Love You**

Be silent.

Be still.

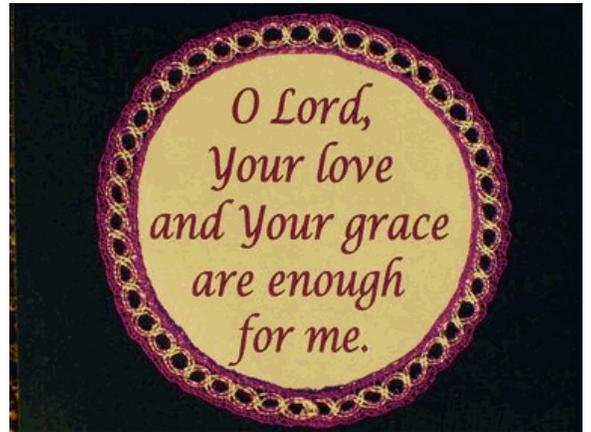
Alone, Empty

Before your God

Say nothing.

Ask nothing.

Be silent.  
Be still.  
Let your God  
Look upon you.  
That is all.  
God knows and understands.  
God loves you with  
An enormous love.  
God only wants to  
Look upon you  
With love and speak to you heart.  
Quiet.  
Still.  
Be.  
Let your God  
Love you.



*the latest work by S. Ann Kaufmann.  
Photo by Ann Kaufmann, used with permission.*

These last 12 weeks have made me so aware of all the ways God has loved me – through Zoom, Catholic TV daily Mass, which the Sisters in Bethany and in Fontbonne, Milton are watching at the same time, Santa Rosans’ outpouring of loving concern for me, my first ever veggie garden, cool evenings in my patio screen house, and countless other ways of connecting with others and with the earth. Who else can boast of two curious, friendly toads in residence in their patio?

Take, Lord, receive. Your love and your grace are enough for me. May it be so for you, too.

With heartfelt thanks for our CSJ Community and your remembrance in my daily prayer,

Annie Kaufmann, CSJ

**St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries**

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