



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.

“Your face, my Beloved, do I seek. Hide not your face from me.” Psalm 27:9

Developing a Contemplative Heart.

Masks have certainly become part of our daily wardrobe during this time of the Covid-19 virus. We have been required to wear one whenever we are not able to be at least six feet away from another person. Should we go to a store without one, we are often met by someone waiting at the door to hand us one. As I admire, or enjoy, the many varieties of masks, (and been grateful for those who have provided them to us), a verse from Psalm 27 comes to mind: ***“Your face, my Beloved, do I seek. Hide not your face from me.”***

Back in the late 70s there was a popular song titled “Time in a Bottle”. One of its lines is, “But there never seems to be enough time to do the things we want to do, once we’ve found them.” During this time of pandemic, among the inconveniences we may have experienced, we have also been gifted with time; with opportunities for growth, not the least of which is developing a contemplative heart.

Contemplation is often described as taking a long, loving look at the real; experiencing the inherent holiness of the present moment. Our search for the face of the God of mystery was aided by the daily reflections provided by The Women’s Table; the invitations from our Justice Promoter, to contact our state reps; the weekly reflections from Leadership Council of Women Religious; the thoughtful reflections shared during the week’s celebration of the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si’* which reminded us to open our hearts to see the face of God in all of creation; participating in the National Day of Mourning and Lament to honor and remember the victims of COVID-19. Newspaper stories of the extraordinary kindnesses shown by so many people remind us that God’s face is present when love is present.

The weather this last month has allowed us to be outside a great deal. Certainly my nature walks have allowed me to witness the multiple faces of God as I communed with all the spirit beings I met along my path: bunnies, squirrels, trees, sky, irises, dandelions and even humans. Planting our garden afforded me the opportunity to once again experience interconnectedness with the earth. Music and poetry also revealed the face of God to me. This pandemic has caused me to slow down and gifted me with time to enjoy all these things.

Many have expressed the hope that when our masks are removed, and life gets back to “normal” we will know the truth of Meister Eckhart’s words: “What we plant in the soil of contemplation we shall reap in the harvest of action.” May the seeds we plant in our contemplative hearts during this time of pandemic, bear fruit in our world as we seek and become the face of God in our daily living.

Blessings, Maureen Doherty, CSJ



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St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries

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