

April 24, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

GUIDED BY THE RESURRECTION

By Julie Mussché

Quotes

"From the certainty that God's grace is with us comes the strength to take courage in the present moment: the courage to carry forward what God asks of us here and now, in every area of our lives; courage to embrace the vocation which God reveals to us; courage to live out our faith without hiding or diminishing it."

"God's people learn to see, trust, discover and let themselves be guided by the power of the resurrection."

POPE FRANCIS, FEBRUARY 22, 2018 IN A MESSAGE TO WORLD YOUTH

Reflection

In high school I was part of a choir and a "Singing Christmas Tree." The concert season was rigorous, a good portion of the month of December, and included travel and assembling and taking down the stacked riser Christmas

Tree. This was no easy task: the tree had eight levels and needed to accommodate the weight and distribution of 60+ bodies. The wood platforms were supported by steel piping which was attached with safety in mind.

The two young men who held this responsibility were dedicated to meeting the needs of the schedule and safety. They both also sang in the choir, one a tenor and the other a bass. One of the fellows spent his free time reading scripture and the other, goofing around with a playful sensibility. Each was unique but bonded by purpose. Oh, and both gentlemen came into this world with cerebral palsy.

Neither of the young men ever complained of the intense schedule or labor required to assemble and dismantle the risers, they just accomplished what needed to be done and always with a smile and generous spirit. Some of us were aware there was a physical toll from all the activity and excessive stressing of the muscles due to their cerebral palsy. We knew that both required massage and stretching to mollify the muscle spasms and increased rigidity resulting from their toil. Regardless, they carried on, both gentle and humble souls, with courageous hearts, exceptional examples of the virtue of fortitude.



Painting from the Church of the Twelve Apostles in Galilee

Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- When the words courage or fortitude are mentioned, who do you call to mind?
 - When has the call to fortitude beckoned to you? How did you respond? What was God's role in lifting you up to meet the moment?
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For Prayer

*The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?*

*I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

*Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.*

PSALM 27:1, 13-14

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