



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

HUMBLE ZEAL

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

A Reading from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

MATTHEW 3:13-17

Jesus in the Garden

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt, and prayed. 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup

from me, yet, not my will, but yours be done.’ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling on the ground.

LUKE 22:39-44

Reflection

Father Medaille offered us six images to assist in deepening our spirituality of relationship. The Uncreated Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit gave a face or tangible expression to one’s experiences of God. The Trinity offers us three entryways to relating with God, who loves us more than we can fully absorb.

Reflection and identification with the Created Trinity: Jesus, Mary and Joseph provide the human experience of relationship with God that is available to all people. The three persons that constitute the Holy Family witness to a life focused on God and lived in fidelity to God. Their lives reveal the movements of grace and, upon reflection, can inspire our own very human relationships. In both Trinities, each member is completely turned toward the others in love, generosity, and self-gift. This model helps us understand God’s love as an abundant outpouring of compassion and self-gift.

We are invited to live life in God. Let us reflect today on the humble zeal of Jesus.

JESUS: Yes, to Baptism-Mission

The human, historical JESUS is the incarnate Son of God made flesh in Mary and becoming like us in everything but sin. In many ways, Jesus offers us a tangible human expression of a deep, personal relationship with God. He is the face of God for us to see, come to know, and relate to in very human terms. Each person also uniquely reflects something of the face of God.

Jesus models zeal for the ways of God and God’s desire to draw all into one. He does this with generous courage, humility, and compassion for all. He lives his YES! in fidelity to the Mission that was his, and through a deep and personal spirituality in identification with the Father. Jesus knew full well the great love of God for him.

Jesus risked all for the sake of God’s dream that all be united in love, so we might know more completely that we belong to God. Jesus was wholly devoted to the glory of his Father and the salvation of all people. He lived his life focused on his mission, “That all may be one.” He revealed the compassion,

mercy, profound and free unconditional love of God for each one of us. Jesus' fidelity to his relationship with God and his gracious and humble zeal in living out God's desire invites us to put on the mind and heart of Jesus and make it our own.

The person of Jesus gives tangible expression to God's love and desire for relationship with us. Jesus is God with "skin." We are invited to know Jesus as God caring for us personally, and reflecting on Gospel stories provides a primary way to develop a real and life-giving relationship with God and deepening soul space. Reciting not only formal prayers, but also engaging in personal conversations with God, is essential to our life in God. As in all relationships, it is essential for us to be still long enough to listen to God in the silence and there discover that God is very fond of us.

In being still and attentive, we gradually come to know Jesus, who loves us no matter what and is keenly interested in each one personally. Every effort needs to be made to come to experience Jesus as brother and friend while nurturing the gift of spirituality so that this primary relationship influences all aspects of life.



For Pondering

- How do I know the mind and heart of Jesus?
 - Who is Jesus to me?
 - How does Jesus' life influence my own manner of living?
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For Prayer

*Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
make my heart like your own.
Awaken humble zeal within my being
so I might love and serve God and the dear neighbor generously.
May compassion, mercy, and forgiveness
be a hallmark of my living.
Amen.*

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