

April 22, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"It is this belief in a power larger than myself and other than myself which allows me to venture into the unknown and even the unknowable."

MAYA ANGELOU

Reflection

Dear Reader,

As we enter the fourth week of Easter moving closer to Pentecost, it seems like a great time to visit the underpinnings of a solid Christian life, the Seven Heavenly Virtues. Yes, there are other virtues to consider, but for this week, let us explore these seven through story: prudence, temperance, fortitude, justice, faith, hope and charity. Our first interlude: faith.

Almost sixty-five years ago, my mom and I boarded a dependent transport ship

to meet up with my dad in our new duty assignment in Yokosuka, Japan. The approximately four-thousand-mile voyage was in open ocean, no stops, across a vast and unpredictable expanse and at the tail end of typhoon season.

For a young child such as myself, two weeks in the middle of nowhere and open water is exciting as well as unsettling. There was great reliance that the grown-ups navigating the ship knew what they were doing and had as a priority the health and welfare of the mostly women and children that they were conveying. While counting flying fish and dolphins, the endless games, swimming contests, and the antics associated with crossing the International Date Line were fun and distracting; high seas and the pitch of turbulent waters at times captured my attention. Also, my mom suffered from motion sickness and her condition added to my anxiety.

Toward the end of the voyage, during our celebration of Thanksgiving, the sea grew angry. My mother became quite ill and took to her bed. I played a bit but also retired to my bunk bed, checking on my mom on the way up the ladder to retire. She looked very green but was sleeping. Sometime in the middle of the night, I woke up to find my mother wading in water. The powerful winds and waves of what was likely Typhoon Ophelia blew our porthole open and rain and seawater had flooded our cabin. Pretty soon, people were rushing in our cabin to bail out the water and to help us to dry space.

During turmoil and uncertainty, help arrived. All of the passengers trusted that we would be supported and cared for, regardless of the circumstance. Is this not analogous to having faith in God, believing in the unknowable and constant presence of the Divine and trusting that God is present and active in our lives? We started here because faith is the keystone of all the other virtues. Gotta have faith.



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For Pondering

- What are some experiences from your life where you have experienced or witnessed faith in action?
 - How do you hold fast to your faith and where is God in the mix of it?
-

For Prayer

*Strengthen my faith, O Nameless One,
and grow my trust in your presence in all things and in my life.
Amen.*

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