

July 8, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

OUR HEART'S DESIRE

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's First Reading

Thus says the Lord: I will allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart. She shall respond there as in the days of her youth when she came up from the land of Egypt. ... I will espouse you to me forever: I will espouse you in right and in justice, in love and in mercy; I will espouse you in fidelity and you shall know the Lord.

HOSEA 2:14-15, 19-20

Reflection

This passage from Hosea holds a special place within me since my first year in novitiate. My novice director and I had gone out to a desert retreat house for the weekend, and we focused on this passage. It was such a metaphor for my own journey with God and in the discernment of my vocation as a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange.

The desert has its own beauty, and, in this setting, I allowed my imagination to use the cactus, dried sands of the desert, and bright blue skies to note my own faith journey with my Beloved. In some ways, the allure of God's presence in my life was not new; it has always been a part of my relationship with God. At the same time, this desert landscape gave me the setting and environment conducive to allow my heart to open to the God who calls each of us.

If you have the time, close your eyes, and place yourself in the quiet of the desert. How might God be speaking to you today? How receptive is your heart and mind to hearing God's message to you today?

Prayer Response to this Reflection

Heart's Desire

You have claimed my heart, O God, in right and in justice. May I not grow weary in my efforts to be mercy in thought, deed, and action. Let your love pour forth from a heart attuned to you, my God.

You have called me to fidelity in my relationship with you. May I not turn from you when hardships and challenges come my way and may my desire to be in right relationship with you continue to evolve and grow.

I pray for the strength, courage, and perseverance to grow ever deeper in my love for all of creation. May my life in faith be embodied in the manner in which I live my life each day.



Sacred Heart Chapel - Orange
Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- How does God continue to allure you in your life? How do you remain open to God's ongoing call in your life?
- How does the desert landscape speak to you in your faith journey? Can you find the beauty and meaning of your own internal landscape that feeds and nourishes your soul?

For Prayer

*We pray for those who find themselves in the desert of their lives,
seeking the waters of life that only God can quench.
May we be conduits of love that ease the way
for those in need of our tender, loving care.*

*May we be an oasis of life that points to the God
who loves without bound and loves all of creation.
Amen.*

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