

July 19, 2025

Daily Reflections



BE A RECONCILING PRESENCE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel Acclamation

*God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

Reflection

“The restoration of friendly relations” is the definition of reconciliation. Still, spiritually speaking, reconciliation seems so much bigger. Reconciliation has much to do with transformation; it is moving from a place of separation, hurt, and brokenness to a place of healing, wholeness, forgiveness, reunion and right-relationship.

How did Jesus reconcile the world to God? The response for people of faith is his total self-giving out of love of us, in accepting death on the cross and

embracing resurrection. The man, Jesus, is the reflection of God, who sought to restore right relationship in every encounter. How did Jesus go about reconciling in the day-to-day?

Reconciling occurs each time we live and act with respect for life, people, and creation. To see each other as “dear neighbor,” to honor the dignity of the other and my own, to speak with respect, act with kindness, not holding another’s sin against them, to acknowledge that all is gift of God’s graciousness toward us -- all are acts of reconciliation.

Jesus, in relationship with the Father, reflected God’s desire for us to be whole and live in harmony with one another, always seeking the good for the other. As a reconciling presence Jesus listened deeply to all he encountered. With great compassion, Jesus responded to the need of others to be seen, heard, healed, fed, taught, and respected.

Being a reconciling presence is to speak well of another, to give the other the “benefit of the doubt,” to act with compassion, kindness, mercy, and gentle strength, and to share resources equitably. I must catch my judgments and suspend negative thoughts and attitudes. I need to be self-reflective and curb my own ego-centeredness. I am always in need of God’s abiding and transforming presence.

It does take two to reconcile; sometimes one or the other of us is not willing to forgive, let go of grudges and wounded feelings, or judgements. Yet, with God’s help, I can choose to live as a reconciling presence that restores dignity and respect, and seeks the good of the other, no matter what the circumstance.

In our times, like all other times, choosing to be a reconciling presence opens the way for God’s goodness, compassion, love, and mercy to lead the way in restoring relationships. It is up to me to choose how I respond, act, think, and relate to others and to myself. Consciously choosing how I respond to troubling circumstances is a choice and a grace for which I need to pray.

Am I choosing to acknowledge the wrong or the evil, and then respond in life-giving, respectful ways? In the face of self-centered ways, or in realizing seeming evil intent and downright neglect of others, I am called to stand tall in the human dignity given me, manage my ego need to be first and best, and act for the good of the other. In so doing, I am restoring right relationship and assisting to reconcile the world to God. The choice is mine. God’s help is given.



Couple Embracing
Photo by Cottonbro Studio

For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- What does reconciliation feel like within my being?
 - What blocks reconciliation in my life?
 - What needs to change within my life for me to be a reconciling presence?
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For Prayer

*O God,
open me to the light of your truth,
so I might walk in your ways all the days of my life.
I ask for your guiding grace to show me
how to be a reconciling presence in my relationships.
Teach me to reject whatever is contrary to your ways.
God of compassion and mercy,
help me strive toward all that is good, honest, and true
to your reconciling ways.
May all I do bring you honor and glory and praise.
Help me recognize and appreciate your presence in all I meet this day.
Amen!*

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