

January 14, 2024



ORDINARY TIMES OF EXTRAORDINARY GRACE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Second Reading

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased as a price. Therefore glorify God in your body."

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

Reflection

The Christmas season has waned, and all the bright décor is stored for another year. I hope and pray that some calm envelops our weary world, allowing people to live ordinary, normal lives. Today is the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time -- "ordinary" meaning a numbering of one Sunday after another when there are no special seasons to mark the days. "Ordinary" can also be understood as "without distinctive features, commonplace." Yet, God's invitation to deeper relationship never goes into storage.

What seems so ordinary, our daily lives, is blessed with Divine indwelling and unending invitation to recall that *“your own body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own.”* (1 Cor 6:15) This is Good News whether we find ourselves in calm or turmoil.

Engaging the mystery and wonder of being “a temple of the Holy Spirit,” what seems like ordinary times become extraordinary. It is never about what one deserves or if one is worthy; it is always about the promise and reality of God’s great Love freely and unconditionally given.

In John’s Gospel today, Jesus invites us to *“Come and you will see”* (John 1:39) where he lives. Follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, simply pause to ponder this truth of your inner being as a dwelling place of God. Be still and open to the marvelous privilege of embracing God’s loving Spirit in yourself and in your daily life. In the ordinary, be alert to our abiding God of surprises.

May we each discover anew God within our souls, strengthening, encouraging, loving, and consoling each one personally in the ordinary. Extra-Ordinary Grace, indeed!



Tulip Garden in Amsterdam
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- Pause to ponder the landscape of your inner being as a dwelling place of God.
 - Be still and marvel at the privilege of embracing God's loving Spirit in yourself and in your daily, ordinary life.
 - In the ordinary, be alert to God of surprises of subtle encounter.
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For Prayer

*Thank you, gracious and loving God,
for calling me to be your own
and creating me to be a temple of your indwelling presence.
Teach me your ways,
help me see you in each person, in every ordinary moment of my life.
Help me realize anew that every person,
no matter their faith tradition, or choices made in life,
is loved by you and is your temple of divine presence.
Help us move toward mutual respect and gracious peace.
Amen.*

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