



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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STIR INTO FLAME MEMORIAL OF SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

*"I remind you to stir into flame
the gift of God
that you have through the imposition of my hands."*

2 TIMOTHY 1:6

Reflection

This is a week of "big saints" who demonstrate the ways of God and invite us to fidelity to the Life of God in the ordinary and startling moments of life. Of note today is the memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus who were trusted companions of the apostle Paul, each of whom he regarded as a true "son" in the faith (1 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4). While indicative of a close relationship, this may also affirm Paul's role in having led them to Christ.

"Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus celebrate the glorious gospel message that Jesus saves sinners, stress the need for godly living as the fruit of gospel grace, and call us to preserve and pass on the good news of the gospel through deliberate discipleship" (*Wikipedia*). The effectiveness of one's discipleship

flows from the strength that comes from God, and the service generously given to others.

St. Paul appears strongly independent, confident, and somewhat boastful. I am delighted to be reminded that St. Paul, a later apostle of Jesus Christ, also depended on relationships with others who believed and promoted the Good News of Jesus Christ. St. Paul's friendships were a source of support, joy, and challenge to him. He shared faith and mission with them, and together they were drawn into union with God. While I know little about the two saints celebrated today, the letters Paul wrote to them are encouraging to those who strive to deepen their fidelity to the ways of the Gospel.

At times when I teach or publicly reflect on matters of the soul and life in God, I am talking to myself as much as to those before me. Speaking from soul-space is a way of ***“fanning into flame the gift of God.”*** Personal prayer is essential, as are discerning, naming, and claiming the graces discovered in sharing one's state of heart with others who seek to live faithfully a life in God. Faith is a pure gift of God. Yet as believers, we also inspire, encourage, and sustain one another in truly living out of our faith stance. Fidelity is learned through practice and conscious living of the gift.

I am happy for those who are attracted to God and the ways of God as the source of life, deepening faith, and integrity. My parents, family, friends, teachers, and sisters in community, as well as companions in ministry, have modeled for me the way to receive and give away all that has been given by God's good pleasure. Daily encounters with the people of God have ***“stirred into flame the gift of God in me.”*** It is through the ***“imposition of hands”*** by many people of faith that I have grown into the person I am today. Thanks be to God for the blessing of each other to sustain us in the ways of God.



For Pondering

- Who have been the brothers and sisters in faith that have nurtured your life in God?
 - Whose faith and life in God's great love have you stirred into flame?
 - What is the impact that sharing the life of God on a deeper level has had on you, on others?
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