

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, GIVE THANKS (1 THESSALONIANS 5:18)

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Reflection

This first Pauline letter to the Church in Corinth begins with his usual prayer of

thanksgiving to God for the grace poured forth on them in Christ Jesus. They “*are not lacking in any spiritual gift*” as they trust in the fellowship they now share with Christ. God is faithful and will assist these chosen ones in every way and keep their feet on solid ground in the pattern of Jesus Christ.

As I consider the words of St. Paul in his greeting and his thanksgiving prayer for the Corinthians, I wonder how to receive these words in my situation today in this present time, 2024, and in this place, Orange, California. Even though, at times, we may feel confused and concerned about the future, we can say this: grace and peace are being given to us all from our Creator and from Jesus Christ. We have been enriched in every way as we try to follow Jesus and live according to the pattern of his life. Together, we are not lacking in any spiritual gift, and we trust in the Divine Presence to walk with us and give us light and the grace of compassion for all our brothers and sisters walking on this same journey in Christ. Our love and compassion reach beyond those of our kin – we are all children of God ... together with all creatures, the earth and the whole cosmos.

When I look at Paul’s thanksgiving prayer in this light, I too, can join with him, thanking our God for the numerous gifts we have received and especially for the gift of God’s own Self poured out upon us at every moment. In Teilhard’s prayer below, perhaps we can join in his prayer to the Creator of us all who constantly gives us all, even the emptying of God’s own intimate Self.



Photo by Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

For Prayer

*In the life that wells up in me
and the matter which sustains me,
I find much more than Your gifts.*

*It is You Yourself whom I find,
You who makes me participate in Your being,
You who molds me.*

PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, SJ
A BOOK OF HOURS

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