

June 26, 2025

Daily Reflections



SACRED PLACES III

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"...sacred space always possesses a double impulse -- a movement which is at once centripetal and centrifugal, a pulling in and a pushing out from a center, a tendency alternately toward localization and universalization.... The holy city is the center to which all memory and meaning are bound."

BELDEN C. LANE. LANDSCAPES OF THE SACRED: GEOGRAPHY AND NARRATIVE IN AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY. (32)

Reflection

Back in San Antonio, the last night of our short visit, which included a visit to the Alamo and a River Walk boat ride, we visited a barbeque restaurant a friend had suggested. We ordered barbeque and side dishes to share and exited to the patio dining area. Not knowing what to expect when the meal arrived, we were surprised to see enough food to feed an army. The car we were driving

was already packed to the roof and we certainly didn't have the ability to refrigerate leftovers.

We did the best we could eating our way through the feast, but barely made a dent in the barbequed dish. We were sitting there in a quandary when all of a sudden, several young people exited the restaurant. We struck up a conversation with them and learned they were from the UK, computer geeks working temporarily at a local business and that they would be leaving the next morning to go home. We offered them what was left of our very generous portion of barbequed ribs and they graciously received the repast with youthful appetites. It was a blessing to be able to share a meal with strangers and not waste a morsel.

On the road again the following day, our next destination was El Paso. Another rigorous eight-hour drive awaited us and as we made our way west, it became apparent that moving through Texas takes a very long time. Finally reaching our destination, I was taken aback by the visual dimensions of El Paso and Juarez. While separated by the Rio Grande River, and an international border, it is as if the two metropolises are one. While distinctive, they came together almost like a single organism sharing the same beating heart and spirit.

The cities reminded me that unity of all people extends beyond political borders. People lived, worked, shopped, and worshiped peacefully without issue and with mutuality beyond a line drawn on a map. It deeply saddened me to have vicariously witnessed the tragedy of the 2019 mass shooting that occurred in El Paso. A shooting driven by hate and racial prejudice. And the tragedies of gun and other violence continue. How long, Lord, must we wait, until all people can live as one?



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For Pondering

- What symbolizes unity and reconciliation for you and in a tangible way?
 - How do you live out that ideal?
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For Prayer

Prayer for Victims of Gun Violence

*God of peace and justice, how long must we wait for the killing to stop?
The relentless carnage driven by hate and misconception, when will it end?*

*Please guide me to help where I can,
to be an agent of peace, healing, unity, and reconciliation,
and fill me with courage to take a righteous stand
when words and acts of hate threaten to overtake Your sacred challenge
to love one another.*

Amen.

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