

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Second Reading

Brothers and sisters:

You are God's building.

*According to the grace of God given to me,
like a wise master builder I laid a foundation,
and another is building upon it.*

*But each one must be careful how he builds upon it,
for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there,
namely, Jesus Christ.*

***Do you not know that you are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?***

*If anyone destroys God's temple,
God will destroy that person;
for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.*

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9c-11, 16-17

Reflection

In today's reading from First Corinthians, I was drawn to the reality of our being the dwelling place of God from whom all blessings and life flow.

With St. Paul, I say, ***“Brothers and sisters ... you are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you.”*** Think about it! The marvelous mystery of divine life lives within us. Each person has been graced with the Divine imprint upon our souls which gives us dignity and draws us to a personal relationship with God. What are the ways in which you have realized this union with God that brings life, goodness, love, mercy, compassion and a deep belonging? Amazing that we are gifted with such Presence!

Somewhere in my life there were touchstones of grace that opened me to the truth of God's presence within me. These experiences and daily reflection motivate me to be my best self.

First was my sense of God's invitation to live my life as a woman who loves God and God's people and to serve in whatever ways I was invited by the Holy Spirit and God's people. I said yes to being a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange, for whom God and God's ways of being love in the world take precedence. I take my very human self with me. God provides the graces needed for growth and transformation. To seek union with God and all of creation is an amazing source of motivation and purpose.

After years of life in the ordinary, I felt called to make a Thirty-Day Ignatian Retreat. I remember having a dream where I was encouraged, by my Mentor who was deceased, to dip deeply into the Well of God's great love. There I would discover sacred encounter with God that would transform my living with purpose and hone the skills of discernment. Putting on the mind and heart of Jesus became my desire and a bonding presence.

I do not know exactly how or when the indwelling presence of God became a tangible reality within me, yet, in God's time, I have come to know God's companioning presence within my being. Though ordinary natural sights, sounds, people, and beauty, I am reminded of God's abiding presence and graciousness.

We all have simple, yet profound experiences in our lives that reveal God to us in more personal ways. It takes some reflection and a lot of hindsight. God is real and dwells within every soul, whether recognized or not. It is never about how worthy I am; rather it is about God's unconditional love for me.

It is so life-giving and gratifying to pay attention to the revelation of God's

abiding presence within one's soul. Then, we are free to co-operate with grace more easily. We are the dwelling place of God! Amazing, Holy Mystery!



Child Praying
Photo by Binti Malu

For Pondering

- What have been key moments of recognition of God's presence over my lifetime?
 - What alerts me to experience God in the ordinary moments of my day?
 - What gift of God's abiding presence do I desire?
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For Prayer

*I am still, silent, and rest in God,
who abides within me, offering loving companionship.*

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