

August 30, 2025

Daily Reflections



TAUGHT BY GOD

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's First Reading

*Brothers and sisters: On the subject of fraternal charity, you have no need for anyone to write you, for **you yourselves have been taught by God** to love one another. Indeed, you do this for all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Nevertheless, we urge you, brothers and sisters, to progress even more, and to aspire to live a tranquil life, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your own hands, as we instructed you.*

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-11

Reflection

In this first letter of Paul to the Christians at Thessalonica, Paul realizes that these Gentile believers have already learned the importance of fraternal charity in building up the community which extends into the vast area of Macedonia.

Paul, who founded this church after he left nearby Phillipi, speaks tenderly to them, saying that they have been **taught by God** to love one another; they do not need further instruction by Paul.

Whenever I see this phrase in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, I find myself resonating with it: I am convinced that God desires to mold us and shape us in God's own intimate ways. Ignatius of Loyola directed the givers of the Spiritual Exercises to *"leave the Creator to deal with the creature"* making the retreat (Fifteenth Annotation). In Jeremiah 31:34, we read, *"There will be no further need for everyone to teach neighbor or brother saying, 'Learn to know Yahweh!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest."* In John 6:45, we read, *"It is written in the prophets: 'And they will all be taught by God.'"*



Man Standing on the Beach
Photo by Na Inho

For Pondering

- Do you recall moments when you have been aware of an interior movement or insight into your relationship with God? Or with yourself?
- Was there a time when God seem to be teaching you wisdom or truth and it resonated deep within?
- How would you like to respond to our Gracious God who wants to communicate directly with you in the depths of your being?

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