

January 19, 2024



Daily Reflections

AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel Acclamation

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

Reflection

God's intent of being in relationship with us through the Incarnation is lived out in the everydayness of Ordinary Time. The first reading from Kings demonstrates the relational struggle between Saul and David for leadership of the Israelites. They experience a falling out and the need for reconciliation, an all too common human reality.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus goes up to the mountain and chooses those he wants to follow him. Following Jesus includes caring for the people in practical ways. Jesus comes to reveal the love, compassion and mercy of God and draws

people into community where the relationship with God flourishes. *“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”* (2 Cor 5:19)

God loves us into life and graces us with personal freedom. Our freedom is an extravagant gift, a sacred trust, and a sign of God’s hope and respect for humanity. The Spirit accompanies us, God dwells within us, and we are free to choose life or death, love or hate, generosity or greed, and every other possibility. At the same time, ego determination enables us to become fully who we are created to be. In this process, we too easily hurt one another.

Reconciliation is about the grace to work toward repairing and rebuilding a relationship that has experienced conflict, hurt, or a breakdown in trust. God has entrusted us with the ability to make whole again, heal all that holds us bound, seek forgiveness, make amends, forgive one another, and strive toward reconciliation in keeping with God’s trust in and hope for humanity. The lyrics to an old song surge in my mind: *“What the world needs now is love, sweet love, that's the only thing that there is too little of.... No, not just for some but for everyone.”*

In my own life, I know that love is the emotional energy that moves me toward the desire to renew and restore relationships. Reconciling relationships requires unity that allows for acknowledging hurt, self-reflection, personal responsibility, a willingness to forgive, and communication that seeks to restore mutual understanding and respect.

The process of reconciliation fosters the ability to move toward conversion. Struggling through the process toward reconciliation is never easy, yet it is worth the effort. The resulting mutual respect and harmony with those I love, and the community shared, is priceless. It is God’s way. We are to be ambassadors of reconciliation.



Photo of card by Sr. Marion C. Honors, CSJ

For Pondering

- What have I done with the hurts and rifts in my life?

- When and how has renewal, restoration, been realized? Give praise and thanks to God.
 - Where is reconciliation needed now? Ask for the grace to engage the process that leads to healing and harmony.
-

For Prayer

*I give thanks, O Gentle One who has formed me.
You loved me from the moment of my first waking
and have held me in joy and in grief.
Grace me with a lasting sense of your presence.
Please break through my fear and paralysis.
Speak your forgiving and healing word anew.
Anoint me with your Spirit of reconciling love.
May I step out in faith to reveal Your reconciling love
through all my words and actions.
Amen.*

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support CSD



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

714-744-3172

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by thecsd@csjorange.org