

April 9, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

EVERYTHING IN COMMON: ONE HEART AND MIND

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's First Reading

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of her possessions was her own, but they held everything in common. With great power the Apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the Apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

Thus Joseph, also named by the Apostles Barnabas (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a Cypriot by birth, sold a piece of property that he owned, then brought the money and put it at the feet of the Apostles.

ACTS 4:32-37

Reflection

This is a summary description of the Jerusalem Christian community post-Resurrection. The phrase “one heart and mind” echoes a Greek proverb about friends that may be found, for example, in Plato’s *Republic*. This description was lived out as community members shared everything in common so that not one of them lacked anything. In fact, when community needs arose, property owners sold their land and houses and put the profits “at the feet of the apostles,” i.e., made it available to them to use for the community. An example of this generous living is the apostle Joseph Barnabas of the priestly tribe of Levi, who was from the island of Cyprus. He appears throughout Acts of the Apostles as the friend and missionary companion of Paul.

The statement “there was no needy person among them” recalls the Hebrew ideal of covenant justice recorded in Deuteronomy 1:4. Between the allusion to the Greek proverb of friendship and the Hebrew reminder of covenant justice, everyone in the Christian community, “Greek or Jew,” understood the Spirit of the Christian community that gathered them as one . . . that encouraged them to act as one as they cared for each other.



Man and child sharing food while sitting on the floor
Photo by Kampus Production

For Pondering

- Who do you know in your faith community who cares for everyone? How

is that clear from her/his life?

- What changes have you made in your life that gives you the freedom to care for your faith community members and beyond?

For Prayer

*Hear, O Lord, my prayers.
May I and my faith community
bring your hope and your enduring help to neighbors near and far.
Amen.*

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