

June 12, 2025

Daily Reflections



REACHING PAST THE VEIL

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

"Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17-18

Reflection

Today's first reading invites us to stand before God with unveiled faces, simply as we are in all our beauty and frailty. This is reminiscent of the Celtic belief that there are some places on earth where the veil between this world and the next is thin, making it easier to connect with God. These are real places where

people eager to encounter the living God actively seek to reside for a while, so to absorb and engage God's abiding presence.

Thin places are often revealed when on pilgrimage, a spiritual journey. Pilgrimage is a stepping away from the familiar, the tried and true -- to let go of control so to encounter God in the new, in the unfamiliar landscape, language, and culture. Pilgrimage opens me to part the veil, revealing thin places of encounter with God and those who have gone before me.

One pilgrimage through the thin places is Le Puy en Velay, France, which was the founding place of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1650. In this town of cobblestone streets, ancient buildings, and the original kitchen of the sisters, I sensed the presence of our first sisters and glimpsed the Holy Spirit's founding grace ***"to bring people together and bring them to God."*** A bond of deep personal relationship stirred in me. In this place I discerned again my own purpose and meaningful relationship with God.

Pilgrimage to "thin places" has encouraged me to move from the abstract to the concrete in realizing God's abiding presence and engagement in my life. Encounters within thin places have enabled me to connect my being, living and serving to those on whose shoulders I stand. I am renewed in the experience of God's faithfulness throughout my life. Each encounter with the sacred has given me gifts that are spiritual and also practical, offering tangible ways to deepen my relationship with God and cultivate a more profound understanding of faith-filled mission.

It seems to me that the Scripture readings during the 50 days since Easter and into Pentecost invite us into the thin places of profound personal encounter with God. The death and resurrection of Jesus tore the veil that separated us from the Holy. He showed us the face of God, which is all love, mercy, compassion, hope and promise. In silent waiting and attentive listening, my heart and soul have been awakened and drawn into God's embrace this side of heaven. Redeemed, renewed, and reaching past the veil, I am sent to follow the way of Jesus, and to be God's love in the world.



Aurora Lights
Photo by Tobias Bjørkli

For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- Where have I discovered “thin places” where the veil that separated me from God has been lifted?
- How do I attend to the desire to be one with God, especially in sacred

encounters that invite me to be still, silent and attentive?

- What have I seen, touched or experienced in the thin places of encounter with God?

For Prayer

Pilgrimage Prayer

*O loving God of future and of purpose,
I call upon you in faith to weave the pattern of my days.*

*Where inspiration and guidance are needed,
may I open my mind and heart to your designs.*

May vision and clarity be your gifts to me along the way.

*May openness to possibilities and a cherishing of our history
blend in our efforts to give shape to the future.*

*May you reveal to me the truth of today
and lead me forth with courage.*

Amen.

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