



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHRISTMAS

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg

BLISSFUL MEMORY

By Julie Mussché

“There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven.”

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

Reflection

While in high school, I sang in an acapella choir, and every year we offered Christmas concerts all over Southern California. The season started with a recording at Capitol Records the first week in December, and went through December 23 with concerts almost every night. The pace was exhilarating and exhausting. At the end of the season, after Christmas and the New Year had been celebrated and passed, it was as if air had been released from a balloon, and what had been a buoyant experience had suddenly descended into mediocrity.

Nowadays, I become a little weepy when the Christmas lights need to come down. The action signals a shift, where the sparkle and glow of the season ends. The hopeful waiting, beautiful and extraordinary worship, gatherings of all kinds, and the prominent messages of hope and joy seem to fade and get tucked away in the memory bank of my heart.

Today we move to the end of Christmastide in the Catholic tradition, as

Epiphany is celebrated tomorrow and the Lord's Baptism on Monday. From then until Lent, we are once again liturgically in Ordinary time. Doesn't it just seem, well, so ordinary? On the other hand, perhaps it might be helpful to consider Ordinary time as a place of liminality; as a transformative time where we put on the Spirit of Christmas, where Grace runs wildly through our souls and guides us toward living as God's Kingdom builders. Now, doesn't that just sound extraordinary?



"Sailing Away from Christmas"
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering & Prayer

- How are you feeling as the Christmas season comes to an end?
- What treasures of this special time will you carry with you and share along the way?
- What are the memories of Christmas that permeate your heart and for which you are thankful?
- What is your prayer to God? Take a moment and capture this prayer however you desire. It could be reflecting on a photo or gift, writing the prayer in prose or poetry, or doing a joyful dance—no limits, just be yourself with God.

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