

October 18, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

THE SPIRIT PRECEDES ME

By Sr. Bernie Inocencio, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's First Reading and Gospel

*"The **Lord stood by me and gave me strength**, so that through me, the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it."*

2 TIMOTHY 4:17

*"**Ask the master of the harvest** to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; Behold, I am **sending you like lambs among wolves**. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.'"*

LUKE 10:2-5

Reflection

As a Sister, sometimes I feel like I'm a lamb sent among wolves. What do I mean by that? An example was a talk I gave to a few students from LMU's

Center for Service and Action, about 10 of them, just recently. The person who contacted me said to talk about the Sisters of St Joseph of Orange and our charism. She wanted the students to see their connection with the Sisters of St. Joseph. She contacted me two days before and told me that all they needed was a 30-minute talk. These students are leaders themselves. They lead over 300 students at LMU in volunteering in the community across different social justice focuses -- mental health awareness, domestic violence awareness and action, education mentorship, homelessness, environmental justice and human trafficking, restorative justice, feminism, and even food justice. They have already been doing ministry and are leaders in their area of service. With just two days to prepare -- and amid computer issues -- I wrote a 3-paragraph statement of the charism of the CSJOs, the ministries we have, and the compassionate and transforming presence that goes with the services that we do. I was nervous; I always get nervous when called on for ad hoc talks and conversations.

Then I was reminded of the scripture quoted earlier. I recalled, the apostles were sent, like lambs to wolves. They had barely received instructions and had hardly understood the teachings from Jesus. I'm sure some of them were wondering what to say to the people they would meet, how they could do Jesus's works.

What I forget is that ***Jesus is the one sending!*** When Jesus sends, ***He sends His spirit with us.*** That sent Spirit gifts us with fortitude, wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, and awe of the Lord, if we remain and abide with God. ***The Spirit of God, of Jesus, goes before us to wherever we are sent.*** This is why Jesus said, "***Ask the master of the harvest*** to send out laborers for his harvest." ***Jesus supplies everything*** needed to labor and work in his vineyard and so that the harvest is good. God stands beside us and gives us strength to do what we were sent to do. God is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

All of us are called to his vineyard. We are all sent. We just need to say yes, pray, believe, and abide in Him, the One who sent. As sisters usually say, we just need to show up. Take courage and ***He will do the rest.***

The picture that comes along with this reflection was taken when I was driving in Thousand Oaks just a few months before I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange to be a religious Sister. I can vividly remember that I was having a conversation with God, and I told God that I fully consented to going to the Sisters, where I felt God was leading me. All I asked of God at that time was to never let go of my hand and to give me everything I needed for the journey. Not long after I finished that prayer, the picture is what showed up in the skies. (*Of*

course, I pulled over before taking the picture.)

P.S. The talk with the LMU students went well and there were curiosities raised and I was able to comfortably answer their questions.



The Spirit Goes Before Me - Thousand Oaks, CA
Photo by Sr. Bernie Inocencio, CSJ

For Pondering

- Recall an instance in your life where you know God led you to an unfamiliar place/situation and still God gave you strength. Ponder the circumstances and remember how God came through for you. How does this recollection feel for you? What do you want to say to God about that experience?
 - Fear usually is the primal reason why we hesitate to fully engage with God. Think of what you fear currently and pray it up to God. Be specific and direct with God.
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For Prayer

This is a song of strength for me. You can listen to it [here](#).

Huh

*When you pass through the waters I will be with you
And the depths of the river shall not overwhelm*

*When you walk through the fire you will not be burned
I am the Lord, I am the Lord
And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
For I am with you always
Huh.....*

*In the depths of your sorrow I wept beside you
When you walked through the shadow I drew you near
And yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same
I am the Lord, I am the Lord
And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
For I am with you always
And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
For I am with you always
What can separate you from My perfect Love?
What can separate you from My perfect Love?
What can separate you from My perfect Love?
Do not fear
Do not fear
Do not fear*

NOTHING TO FEAR BY PORTER'S GATE, FEATURED: AUDREY ASSAD

Meet the Authors

**Join us Sunday morning, October 27,
for a fun gathering with the writers of our Daily Reflections!**

Learn how each writer decides on the format and content of their reflections, how writing reflections impacts their own spiritual lives, and how YOU can create reflections for yourself and the people you care about. A light brunch buffet will be served.

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