



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

HOLY WISDOM'S PROMISE

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's First Reading

God formed man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made them. But by the envy of the Devil, death entered the world, and they who are in his possession experience it.

But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before human beings, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation, they shall shine and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

Reflection

The consoling words in Wisdom 3:1-9 are frequently chosen for the Celebration of Life or funeral of a loved one. These verses describe how the world looks upon death as a calamity, whereas a godly person understands the death of a faithful person in this way: the souls of the virtuous are at peace in the hand of God. Holy Wisdom offers a promise of hope: *“the faithful shall abide with God in love.”* Intimacy with God is a precious gift to a just one, to a merciful one: they will dwell with God in love. To dwell in Love! At the time of our passing, the circle of life is complete – what more could we desire?



Sculpture of a soul rising to heaven
Photo by mermoz lionel

For Pondering and Prayer

You may want to read these wisdom words again and listen to the verses as if you are passing from this familiar world into the hand of God. What is it like to hear these words said about you? Or to hear these words said to you: “Come, dwell in my love.”

In John 17:24 we hear Jesus say: “*Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with*

them.” Jesus speaks Wisdom to his beloved.

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