

November 4, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

URGENCY OF LOVE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's First Reading

Brothers and sisters:

If there is any encouragement in Christ,

any solace in love,

any participation in the Spirit,

any compassion and mercy,

complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love,

united in heart, thinking one thing.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory;

rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,

each looking out not for his own interests,

but also everyone for those of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Reflection

I have read the Scripture above from Philippians many times in my life. The urgency of its message never fails to engage my heart and soul. It is the paragraph that precedes the invitation to “*put on the mind of Christ Jesus.*” Zeal for the ways of God surges through me. The earnestness expressed awakens me to God’s great desire to be one in mind and heart. This desire for unity is not drab or simple; rather, it is very complex and challenges my very nature to embrace the invitation personally. It encourages me to be my best self in relationship with God for my own good and the sake of God’s boundless creation. I am to reflect God’s love in the world.

Human nature is created in the image and likeness of God. It is the dignity we bear, the imprint on our souls. God’s great love leaves us free to choose how we will engage life. Left to ourselves and all that shapes our lived experience, we are free to choose life. This means choosing the ways of God. On the other hand, we are also free to choose the shadow, or more self-centered ways which often lead to selfish ambition, greed, pride, envy, deceit, obsessiveness, vengeance, and other aggressive behavior. Light and darkness exists within each person. We are free to choose what is life-giving, or to choose what is death-dealing.

It is only in reflecting on my experiences, discerning what is good, that I gradually grow into the person God created me to be, looking out for the good of others. Look around and you will see the difference. ***“Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.”***



Close-up of Heart Shape

Photo by Pixabay

For Pondering

- When have you chosen to attend to the good of others, before your own?
 - When have you experienced God's joy and delight in you?
 - What is the urgency that you experience toward the good of the whole?
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For Prayer

Slowly read aloud Philippians 2:1-4.

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