

September 20, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

# *Daily Reflections*

Image by Christine Sponchia

## **SELF-GIFT**

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

### **An Excerpt from Today's First Reading**

*Beloved:*

*I am writing you,  
although I hope to visit you soon.  
But if I should be delayed,  
you should know how to behave in the household of God,  
which is the Church of the living God,  
the pillar and foundation of truth.*

**1 TIMOTHY 3:14-15**

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## **Reflection**

Throughout history there have been people whose faith and extravagant love motivate them to give themselves completely -- embracing martyrdom. The annals of the Christianity are replete with stories that inspire faith, courage,

great love, and self-gift. Today is the Memorial of the Korean Martyrs, Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn and Companion Martyrs. I went online and read the heroic and terrible stories of these martyrs. I ask myself what enabled them and countless others to be so selfless?

I am a woman of faith and devotion, and I strive to live in God and for God through all the ups and downs of life. I do not know if I could muster the courage and willingness of the martyrs. For most of us, the option for swift and dramatic martyrdom will never come. Yet, as people who take faith in God seriously, the invitation for self-gift presents itself each day.

This I call “the martyrdom of everyday life.” There is a purpose for our lives. God invites us each day to rely on faith, trust in God, and to give ourselves away for the sake of the other. People who have demanding and stressful jobs and lives that serve others know too well the reality of giving of themselves. Parents do this by their fierce and tender love for their children; teachers gladly give of themselves to educate the next generation; medical professionals serve people in the physically vulnerable times of their lives. All that is ours to do each day, and all our interactions, are embraced by God, who blesses us and strengthens us in generous being and doing. The presence of God is revealed in the giving of oneself -- when it is done with love and generosity of spirit.

For good or for ill, we witness to God’s abiding love. The everyday often requires heroic self-gift. Whether the martyrdom of everyday life, or the once and final martyrdom of saints and heroes, generosity, integrity, and humility are required. We know “how to behave in the household of God.”

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## For Pondering

- How does the concept of martyrdom in everyday life resonate in my experience?
  - How does the invitation to self-gift shift my attitude toward what is asked of me in relationship to family, co-workers, and others in society?
  - How am I being invited to generous living and serving out of my faith stance?
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