

July 18, 2025

Daily Reflections



LIVE WITH ONE DESIRE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Maxim 73

*Live out your life with one desire only,
to be always what God wants you to be,
in nature, grace, and glory,
for time and for eternity.*

JEAN PIERRE MEDAILLE, SJ

Reflection

Today, I depart from the Scriptures and am drawn to focus on Maxim 73 (one of 100 Maxims written by Father Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ, who founded the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1650). This year, around the world, Sisters and those captivated by their vision and mission celebrate the founding of our Congregation 375 years ago! No small thing! Originally there were six women

who started a new form of religious life focused on God and the dear neighbor, from whom they did not separate themselves.

Influenced by the Holy Spirit, we are to be God's great love in the world. We are to bring people together and bring them to God. This purpose influences my reflections, focused on the abiding presence of God within each person and perceiving LOVE as the means to fullness of life. Each person and all of creation is uniquely loved by God and is to reflect something of God. In other words, like Jesus, we are to engage the mystery of incarnating God's desire for all of creation in the world.

The maxim above urges us to be all God created us to be. We are to grow into the best version of ourselves. To be what God desires us to be can only be realized a little at a time. It requires that we be people of prayer, reflection, and ongoing conversion to the ways of God's unconditional love, that we strive to adapt ourselves to the challenges of loving ... even when that calls us to do or be or say something that seems contrary to love. Sometimes this kind of relating demands that we seek forgiveness. As contemplatives in action, inner transformation is costly grace that opens us to BE more than we think humanly possible. Only in reflecting on and depending on the indwelling presence of God is this kind of loving possible.

As Marcia Allen, CSJ from Concordia writes, "This [Love] is our nature: this is our gift; and it is how we communicate and effect the beauty to which we are called. One senses the sheer joy of being caught up in this lovely vocation."

Or as Father Medaille summed up his nature, purpose and call, "I love LOVE (GOD) and let LOVE (GOD) love through me." This is a lifetime journey of faith and conscious desire to belong to God. In and through the Holy Spirit, the loving presence and desire of God is revealed for all to see and embrace.



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For Prayer

One in Love

Light the fire!

Don't wait for someone else to do it.

The neighborhoods of the earth need your warmth.

Take the inspiration; don't let it pass you by.

The Spirit has a message for your heart.

Start now!

Stand up together today!

Community is in your midst and it waits outside

Your door

For the more you can create.

*Don't wait!
It's not too late to speak, to act, to make a difference.
It's not too early in the day, or week, or year,
To chase away the fears of darkness
With the light of unity,
The fire of reconciliation,
The blessing of being
One in Love.*

MARY CATHERINE WALTON, SSJ CHESTNUT HILL, PA

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