

November 26, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

DESERT SOJOURN 2: RECREATION

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"It is not necessary to teach others, to cure them or to improve them; it is only necessary to live among them, sharing the human condition and being present to them in love."

ST. CHARLES DE FOUCAULD

Reflection

Driving toward Havasu, the Colorado River first teases with a glimpse and then comes to dominate the horizon, a refreshing view after a long drive through the arid Mojave. Havasu, of Spring Break legend, is a water sports mecca for boating, fishing, wind surfing, paddle boarding, jet skiing and other aquatic activities. A place of recreation and relaxation, for me, this meant hikes from our quiet neighborhood to a local nature reserve on the river, not having to prepare meals, and luxuriating in the beautiful sunsets and night sky. The

journey also unfolded a whole new appreciation of the word *recreation*.

As a river town, Havasu has a real beach vibe and the residents, both permanent and seasonal, wear that sensibility. Without the intention of a singular characterization, one observation: beachside desert residents seem to carry a kiss of sunshine in the bronze patina of a tan that varies in degree depending on personal circumstance and the time of year. Dress is generally casual and relaxed across generations. People descend on the city from all over the globe as evidenced by the many pins peppering the map displays featured in the Havasu Visitor Center. All kinds of people coming from all over to enjoy and embrace the gifts of a special place and, in some cases, to provide services such as food, shops, and other forms of care.

With this diversity comes varied perspectives and beliefs. Coming off the recent election, the invitation for me was a re-creation of heart, to simply be present to each person as they are, where they are, without judgment, and without trying to adjust, change or improve them. Notwithstanding the call to a prophetic response to acts of injustice or hate, can I be open to God's urging to be a loving presence to others without distinction? The notion of re-creation implies an ongoing conversion with the Grace of the Holy Spirit recharging and guiding this movement. Amen to that, and thank you God, for the gift of re-creation.



Road to the Lake
Photo by Julie Mussché

Considerations

- What are all of the interpretations of the word “recreation” that you can come up with?

- How are you inspired to recreate, to partner with the Spirit to be a loving presence in a divided world?

For Prayer

*May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.*

FROM A PRAYER TO THE CREATOR, FRATELLI TUTTI

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