

May 28, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

THE PURE GLORY OF GOD

By Julie Mussché

Maxims of The Little Institute

“Let your affections and actions be guided by reason and duty and not by caprice and natural inclinations.”

MAXIM 36, FR. JEAN PIERRE MÉDAILLE

“Be nothing to yourself and be utterly given to God and to the neighbor.”

MAXIM 39, FR. JEAN PIERRE MÉDAILLE

Reflection

Going back to previous reflections, almost 40 years ago, I worked in a local prosecutor’s office. One of my responsibilities was leading and guiding almost 140 specialized administrative persons. There were three levels of reporting with 11 supervisors and a senior supervisor handling the day-to-day responsibilities at multiple locations. At the time, the office was considered the

largest law practice in the county, and included attorneys, paralegals, investigators, investigative assistants, forensic auditors, child support specialists, and other specialized positions as well as office support. It was a large operation advocating for victims of crime and the public.

As a first-time manager of people, I was full of myself, that is, for about two seconds. On many occasions, I was “schooled” by a variety of the supervisors in my purview to help me understand the obvious as well as the more subtle workings of the office and my place in the whole thing. The fact is, each section operated uniquely to its purpose, and were bound by the zeal of their distinctive efforts. For a number of reasons, I would never be a part of the respective inner circles, in part because of the totality of my responsibilities: parking and office space; petty cash approvals; compliance officer; personnel and affirmative action investigations; and hiring and termination authority and consultation. These were not very popular functions to say the least, and when visiting different office locations, folks always speculated about the nature of my visit.

Hence, the office supervisors could “make or break” a situation as well as relationships and, in many instances, kept things yar. They were a dedicated group of women, with a passion for what they contributed to helping achieve justice for victims of crime. They also possessed the wisdom and grace needed to navigate a complex culture of competing interests and deadlines, and conflicting hierarchies. They were also women of faith from a number of traditions who lived out their beliefs in relationships. Several of the supervisors in particular helped me, through their example, learn to embrace the service rather than the power of leadership.

A Trinitarian life invites a sense of zeal as well as humility in how we minister, serve, and are with each other at the heart of it. All is relational, and we are asked to give ourselves wholeheartedly and with love, with God on the horizon.



Yellow Flower
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- How do you interpret, “be nothing to yourself?”
 - What does it mean for you to “give yourself?”
 - Where is God present in the acts of humility and giving?
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For Prayer

*God of inclusive love,
Enflame our hearts with the fire of your love
That we may build bonds
Of relationship and respect among all...*

SR. JOANNE GALLAGHER, CSJ, *FEDERATION PRAYER*

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