

## LOVE'S REMINDER!

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

## Maxim 41

"Tend solely and lovingly to resemble the dear Savior perfectly and in all things. Let him live in you and you live utterly in him."

**JEAN-PIERRE MEDAILLE, SJ** 

## Reflection

When I was a child and we would argue or disagree with one another, my dear mother would admonish us, "Brothers and sisters are supposed to love and care one for one another rather than hurting each other." Fitting words for our times with which God would agree! Also, when we got into name calling, she would say, "I gave you all beautiful names, not the hateful ones you are using."

In writing this whole week, I have attempted to impart a life-giving perspective from my upbringing, my faith stance, and my relationship with God. Living the charism and mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph necessitates "putting on the mind and heart of Christ." (Philippians 2) His desire "that all may be one" (John 17:21) urges me toward intimacy with God. Reflection on the person of Jesus is a matter of deepening my relationship with him and coming to know his heart, his being and teaching, as well as his actions.

I must ask myself, what is the "spirit" behind Jesus' words and actions? It seems to me that Jesus' own intimacy with God, his belonging to God, and the sacredness of creation, informed his way of being. God the Father formed him in the ways of love, community, reverence, and integrity. Jesus experienced and treasured his relationship in God so much that his own identity and mission was to be the face, the hands, the heart of God among us. He gave his whole self that we might know God's love, abiding presence, and compassion. In this is Life forever!

Now it is my turn to embrace intimacy with Jesus/God so I might live, work, serve, respond as he would. I am urged to grasp more deeply his heart, his love for everyone without distinction. You and I are formed to be "goodness and light" in the world. We are created to know God's love, mercy, compassion, and God's deep desire for unity in every human soul.

We live in challenging times (all times have their unique challenges). As a follower of Jesus, my mission is his mission, seeing the love of God made manifest in the world, in every person. Respect for the dignity of every person and all of creation as a reflection of God's very self. This reverence for LIFE is manifested in "Loving God and Neighbor" with inclusive, self-emptying, all-permeating love, mercy, and compassion.

"Brothers and sisters are supposed to love and care for one another, not hurt each other."



## For Pondering and Prayer

The world and all in it need a refresher in loving our neighbor as ourselves. Father Medaille's spirituality is summarized in knowing and loving God personally:

"I love Love and let Love love through me."

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