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## THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

## **An Excerpt from Today's Gospel**

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me."

JOHN 17:20-21

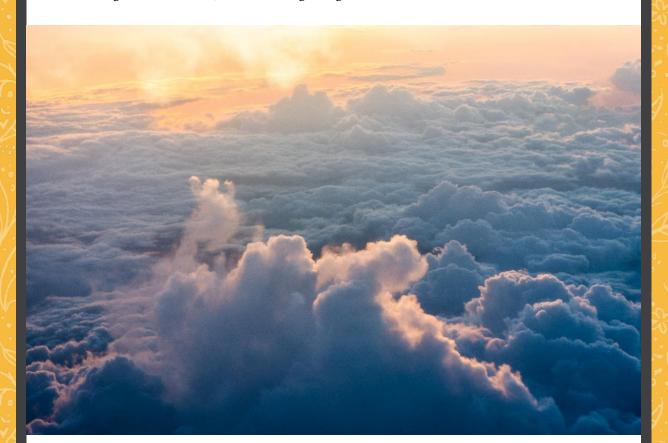
## Reflection

Lately, I have noticed busy lives may cause us to grow weary and forgetful that we are still in the season of Easter. Lest we get distracted, **Jesus is alive!** Risen indeed! This is the belief to which Christians are called to consciously live and that we are sent to proclaim to the world. Jesus gave himself out of radical love of us and of God. We are the disciples for whom Jesus prays in today's Gospel.

The prayer of Jesus awakens a felt sense of urgency in his lived revelation of God's compassion, mercy, and abiding presence. May the desire of Jesus be more my own each day. His prayer stirs to action my faith, my belief, my life's mission. Jesus prayed that "all may be one." This is God's own desire, too. This is the central belief and message of the "charism" or Spirit-given mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph. It is not just for me; this manner of being and living is for all who are captivated by the desire for unity and wholeness. "We live and work to bring all people into union with God and one another."

As I have grown in the "charism" and deepened in faith, drawing people together and bringing them to God motivates what I do each day in community, relationships, and ministry; at least, this is my desire. I am blessed to be stirred by the love of God in the ministry I do each day. I pray with Jesus for those I encounter each day in person or by extension. I pray that the breadth of the Holy Spirit inspires us to be a people of humble zeal that awakens people of all walks of faith to be God's love and transform the world.

This is no easy way to live. Ego and soul are always in need of the Holy Spirit. Yet, as my desire for God deepens, I am impelled to continually make known the great love of God for every person and all of creation. Jesus' urgency becomes my own. You and I are the ones who witness so that the world believes that we, like Jesus, are sent by God for the divine purpose. The Spirit of Jesus prays for us, "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one."



## **For Pondering**

- How have I lived into the grace of the Easter season?
- To what is God inviting me at this time?
- What graces of the Holy Spirit do I ask so as to serve with humble zeal?
- Pray in thanksgiving for witness of Jesus to God's great love and desire "that all may be one."

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