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Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

WARM-HEARTED LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR WITHOUT DISTINCTION

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Readings from the Gospel of Matthew and the Letter to the Romans

“Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit...”

MATTHEW 1:20

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you....’

MATTHEW 2:13

If God is for us, who can be against us? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, or height, or depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able

Reflection

JOSEPH who said Yes, to God's Dream

A silent witness to living a life in God and within the ways of God is St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, foster father to Jesus, and listener to God's Dream. Very little is known of Joseph except the stories in the Gospel where no spoken word of his is recorded. Joseph's actions speak louder than words. The infancy narratives reveal that Joseph was attentive to what God asked of him, which he understood in dreams.

Joseph witnesses to active attention to God's dream for the world. His actions reveal him to be a man of great warm-hearted charity, integrity, compassion, and generous love. His reliance on God enabled him to recognize God in his dreams and to follow God's lead in his life. Joseph responded to the needs of the dear neighbor with a quality of presence that vivifies, strengthens, expands, and unites all into God's desire for us. Joseph lived his Yes! in fidelity to God's Dream in ordinary daily life as well as in extraordinary moments that called for courage, quick action, and daring, all to protect his beloved family.

Like Joseph, may we practice warm-hearted love for all, humble charity among ourselves, as well as great compassion toward every kind of neighbor and courageous response in accord with God's desire and hope for the whole world and all people. We choose to do this always relying on God's grace at work in us in every situation.



St. Joseph
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- When and how do I hear God's voice?
- How have I responded to what I believe was asked of me?

- How receptive am I to receiving all people with warm-hearted love?

For Prayer

Gracious God of life and goodness, thank you for the example of the Holy Family in living a life devoted to your desire for them.

May the Un-Created Trinity

Help us to serve with the humble zeal and compassionate love of Jesus

Open us to a contemplative heart and fidelity to God's grace, like Mary

Enable us to live with the warm-hearted love and fidelity to God's dream as did Joseph.

Amen.

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