

April 19, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

# *Daily Reflections*

## JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

### WHAT SPIRIT IS AT WORK AMONG US?

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

#### Excerpt from Today's Reading

*The high priest rose up and all his companions, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and, filled with jealousy, laid hands upon the Apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night, the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, "Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life."*

**ACTS 5:17-20**

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**Reflection**

The struggle between the power of some in authority versus the Spirit of God at work in true followers of Jesus continues just as real today as it was in the torture and crucifixion of Jesus. Discernment is always needed. I ask, what spirit is at work in the world now? Is it the spirit of self-centered power, control, envy, greed? Or is the spirit that draws me into God and to serve God and God's people in the manner of Jesus?

Fidelity to his relationship with God and fulfilling his Mission of being God's great love in the world cost Jesus everything. It seems that after the resurrection, Jesus' life and invitation animated the apostles and others despite the cost of imprisonment, violence, and potential death. These same people who once hid from sight are now undaunted. Fear no longer inhibits them.

Love of God, the call of Jesus, and the animating power of the "*Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead*" (Romans 8:11) impelled them to stand up and speak the truth that burned in their hearts. The burning remembrance of Jesus' self-gift urged them forward, and so they continued to witness valiantly.

The sad truth is that I recognize the same power struggle throughout world history. And I also discern the truth of God's great, abiding, and all-permeating love as it surges forth in those who choose the way of God's love witnessed in Jesus and in his followers throughout generations. It is ours to serve today. Do I "*hear the cry of the poor*" (Psalm 34:7) as God does?

In the glow of Easter celebration, I sense the same burning desire within me to witness to God's love and presence. I, too, am impelled to serve, to let go of worldly power, possessions, and prestige, so that the power, that is the grace, of God rises within my soul. I am impelled to attend to the good of all. I don't do it perfectly, yet I know the lavish love of God in my own heart and so seek to serve, to heal, to forgive, and to give of my own life for the good of all before the good of the one—myself.



Peace Rose by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

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**For Pondering**

- How do I experience the grace of God's love within my soul?
  - How am I called to hear and serve the "cry of the poor" among us?
  - What hinders my ability to hear the voice of God?
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### For Prayer

*Loving and gracious God, I experience your abiding presence and call within me. I belong to you, the One for whom I long. Your great love poured out upon the world and surges in my soul. Show me the way to live and give of myself to you. Provide the motivation and insight to surrender all that stands in the way of your Spirit at work in me so that I may serve generously and with humility. May I be responsive to your Word and the needs of your people. Amen*

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