

July 15, 2025

Daily Reflections



FAITH, REASON, AND DIALOGUE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Memorial of Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Born in 1221 in Bagnoregio, Italy, Bonaventure died on July 15, 1274 in Lyon, France. He steered the Franciscans on a moderate and intellectual course that, for a time, made them the most prominent order in the Catholic Church. His theology was marked by an attempt to completely integrate faith and reason. He thought of Christ as the "one true master" who offers people knowledge that begins in faith, is developed through rational understanding, and is perfected by mystical union with God. (Catholic Encyclopedia)

It is good for us to recognize the grace of God that still flows through this Franciscan saint. He and St. Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican, met at the University of Paris while students and became colleagues and friends. They are Doctors of the Church, intellectual and spiritual giants of their times. While their approach to theology and spirituality was conceived from a different starting place and perspective, they shared a deep respect for one another and

influenced the social, political, and religious realities of their times. Their writings still shape the theology, faith perspective, and spirituality of our times. Faith and reason remain valuable tools in our own study and response today.

Our readings today are about Moses being placed in a basket among the river reeds and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, who brought him up as her own. Jesus bemoans the self-centered lives and loss of values of the times in the statement on "woes to you." He could be speaking about the "woes" we experience. Difficult readings for stressful and turbulent times that, in many ways, are not so different than our own.

Perhaps the message for us today is to remember that first ***we belong to God*** of abundant love and mercy. Faith and a deep spiritual relationship with God guide our reflection, along with clear thinking, research and dialogue. Rooted in God's love and striving to bring all into loving unity are clearly motivating influences in addressing the needs of our times. I pray that being grounded in prayerful discernment helps me/us move in open dialogue leading toward right relationship and reconciling unity. Nothing is as clear or as simple as we might like. Only in God, and in the use of our God-given faith and reason, can we work together to navigate life and social engagement for the good of all.





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For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- How does my relationship with God guide my behavior and interaction with others, especially those who are different from or a stranger to me?
- How does my life speak of God's great love for me, all people and creation?

- What guides my thinking about others and our social, political reality?
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For Prayer

AS I SEE US

*We walk the path hallowed by our foremothers,
enriched by the courage and fidelity
of so many silent sentinels who kept watch,
who patterned the Lace of Unity that we cherish.*

*We walk together today
with a new boldness of stepping out in risk once more.*

The risk to reconcile defines us.

The risk to be a healing presence defines us.

The radical embrace of mission defines us.

We continue to walk "with sleeves rolled up."

*We face revolutionary challenges
with all the combinations of our personalities, strengths and differences.*

*We **are** salt for our world!*

We stand up along the margins as who we are.

We step into courageous action

with a contemplative spirit,

"utterly given to God by a holy self surrender..."

(cf. Maxim 24)

May we be blessed!

MARY CATHERINE WALTON, SSJ CHESTNUT HILL, PA

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