

April 28, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

West Pac Legacy

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Radiate boundless love towards the entire world.”

THE BUDDHA

Reflection

In the early 1960s, my dad was assigned to Yokosuka Naval Base, and we eventually lived in a dependent housing area at the time called Admiralty Heights. Housing was built around an old air field runway with considerable grassy open space, and surrounded by agricultural fields and Sagami Bay to the west. We were situated on a plateau with an extraordinary view of Mt. Fuji, and lived close to a fishing village that, although off-limits, was a keen place of interest and naturally attracted us kids to visit.

The elementary school I attended was across the street, and classes combined multiple grades with students from all over the US and US territories. We were many sizes, shapes and colors with a variety of accents and idioms. In addition to basic “reading, writing and arithmetic,” we also were taught some conversational Japanese and were introduced to Japanese customs.

This was also where I was formally introduced to my faith through Catechism classes in preparation for my First Communion, quickly followed by my Confirmation a year later. In a very short period of time, I was blessed with receiving two Sacraments of the Church, learned who my patron saint was (a point of heated discussion with my Catechism teacher), received my first holy card and a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which was hung next to that of a picture of my Guardian Angel. Whew, that was a lot to absorb for a nine-year-old.

Correspondingly, my faith immersion was expanded to include Buddhism and Shintoism through visits to local shrines as well as sacred sites such as the Buddhist temple in Kamakura. This particular site is imprinted on my memory, no doubt because of the huge statue of Amitābha, also known as Daibatsu, and the beautiful gardens surrounding the sacred area. Buddhist holidays also provided a means of learning and appreciating the traditions.

Above and beyond the head learning, the overarching threads of wisdom that have stayed with me for over a half century are that no culture or religion can claim moral superiority. All universalizing religions teach us to love, to be kind and to offer compassion. We can all learn something from one another. Suffering, as well as joy, is experienced by everyone. There are customs and traditions that celebrate life events such as birth, rites of passage, marriage and death, and it’s good to encounter and share those traditions. Life is a sacred gift, relational and meant to be experienced and celebrated. Lastly, the Divine pulses through everything and all persons, and we are offered a glimpse of that Presence throughout the pilgrimage called life.



"Daibatsu - Kamakura, Japan" by stuartmoulder is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.
To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/?ref=openverse>.

For Pondering

- What wisdom treasures have you carried with you over your lifetime?
 - Where or how have you encountered the Sacred in those treasures?
-

For Reflection

If so inclined, spend some time reflecting and contemplating on the following:

*"Fulfill all the duties of the great and true love of God,
and you will fulfill the rest."*

JEAN-PIERRE MEDAILLE, SJ, MAXIM 77

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**





Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

[714-744-3172](tel:714-744-3172)

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street | Orange, CA 92868 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)