

November 21, 2025

Daily Reflections



A HOUSE OF PRAYER

By Sister Bernie Inocencio, CSJ

Centering

Let's begin this reflection by centering ourselves with **the song House of Prayer by Tony Alonso**. Below are the refrain and the first verse of the song.

***“Let this be a house of prayer;
Shelter of God’s love and care,
Shaped into a house of living stones
By the hands of Christ, our cornerstone.
Let this be a house of prayer for all people.***

*A font of God’s love overflowing;
Let this be a house of prayer.
A holy ground where all find welcome;
Let this be a house of prayer.
A temple of the Holy Spirit;*

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them,
“**It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer,**
but you have made it a den of thieves.”
And every day he was teaching in the temple area.*

LUKE 19:45-47

Reflection

Early in life, I never thought Jesus got angry. Through the years, as I listened and paid attention to the Gospel and grew in faith, I realized while He was fully Divine, he was also fully human, capable of human emotions just like anyone. This includes the anger Jesus demonstrated in this Gospel reading. His was not a displaced anger. It was a righteous anger, emphasizing the sacredness of worship spaces and the call for personal spiritual authenticity and renewal.

Jesus’s action emphasized the First Commandment: You shall have no other gods before me. Churches and temples are sacred spaces, a place of refuge for the weary, a safe haven, a sanctuary where individuals may meet the Holy. Houses of prayer are not for commerce, not for worldly distractions, not for exploitation of the faithful, not for greed or hypocrisy.

No human institution is perfectly sacred. The sexual abuse and harassment by priests and religious leaders, as well as corruption in churches and religious institutions, prove that our houses of prayer are flawed. We, as a church, are exhorted to examine and scrutinize our institutions and ourselves, and work towards institutional revival, as well as individual and communal renewal.

The Church as the mystical body of Christ is called -- collectively and individually -- to constant transformation and revitalization of its spiritual life. The Gospel also leads us to see ourselves as God’s temple, a dwelling for the Divine, a tabernacle of the Holy; and as such we must strive for righteousness and to be living tabernacles where the Holy Spirit dwells. As individuals, we are called to constantly assess our way of life, whether it reflects God’s love and grace, making the Holy visible to others.

Mary, our Blessed Mother, whose feast of her Presentation in the Temple we

celebrate today, is a wonderful example of this. She was full of grace, righteous, blessed, and ever faithful to the Word of God. As Luke 2:19 stated: "Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." She reflected, and with God's grace, made herself a house of prayer, and a pure vessel for Jesus.



designedbybinocenciocsj102325aigenerated

For Pondering

- What makes a space, particularly a house of worship, feel sacred to you?
 - Is it surprising to see Jesus angry? What does this story teach us about the nature of righteous anger? When is it appropriate to be angry?
 - How can you, as a temple of the Holy Spirit, honor God? How can you be a house of prayer?
-

For Prayer

Today, I borrow the words from the refrain and second and third verses of Tony Alonso's song "A House of Prayer."

Instead of "Let this be a house of prayer" say,
"Let ME be a House of prayer":

A refuge in a time of trouble;

Let me be a house of prayer.

A vessel of God's grace and mercy;

Let me be a house of prayer.

A hospital where wounds are treated;

Let me be a house of prayer.

Let me be a house of prayer;

Shelter of God's love and care,

Shaped into a house of living stones

By the hands of Christ, our cornerstone.

Let me be a house of prayer for all people.

A table set for friend and stranger;

Let me be a house of prayer.

A body taken, blessed and broken;

Let me be a house of prayer.

A banquet hall for ev'ry hunger;

Let me be a house of prayer.

FROM "A HOUSE OF PRAYER" BY TONY ALONSO

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

Support CSD



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



Visit Website

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](#)