

April 29, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

OUR LIVES SPEAK

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*"Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."*

JOHN 14:23

Reflection

Caterina di Jacopo di Benincasa, known as Catherine of Siena, was an Italian mystic and pious laywoman who engaged in papal and Italian politics through extensive letter-writing and advocacy. Canonized in 1461, she is revered as a saint and as a Doctor of the Church due to her extensive theological authorship. She was born March 25, 1347 in Siena, Italy and died April 29, 1380 in Rome, Italy at the age of 33.

The feast day of St. Catherine of Sinna falls within the Easter Season this

year. In my mind she is a wonderful witness to God's abiding presence dwelling in her, and she in God. It seems that the Holy Spirit endowed her with great faith, insight, and courage to address the ills of church and even society in her day. So much did she love God that the Spirit formed her in the Word of God. That Word stirred up such love and presence that she lived out loud the movements of the Spirit, addressing the ills of the world in which she lived.

She lived fervently, her love for Jesus and the Father whom she knew deep within her soul. God was home within her and flowed out to the woes and worries of her world.

She is a gracious example of *keeping God's word*, knowing the love of God, and discerning God's indwelling presence, not for herself, but for the sake of the world.

I hope and pray that you and I are people who strive to live the Word, love God, and love God's people. Jesus' bold promise is made tangible for our discernment, too. God dwells in us! Do we see it, feel it, recognize God's abiding presence within our souls and influencing our lives? You and I may not be overtly calling to task warring church officials who seem to have lost their way. However, we are no less challenged to live our relationship with God out loud by the manner of our living, relating, and working among God's people. Let us stir up love, mercy, compassion, and witness to God's abiding presence.



For Pondering

- How does the Word of God permeate my being, thinking, relating, and service?
 - How might I be being called to creatively live and demonstrate my relationship with God?
 - With whom and how am I invited to witness Gospel living in the day to day?
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For Prayer

*Oh God,
Creator and Beloved Companion,
you are the author of being and life.
May I seek always to find my home in your Word,
and in more intimate relationship with you.*

*Please inspire in me a spirit of devotion, service, and praise
that I may give you glory in everything I think, feel, say, and do
through Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

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