



GOD'S GIFT OF WISDOM

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Second Reading

We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit" (Is. 64:3). For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-10

Reflection

As I was reflecting on this passage from Paul to the people of Corinth, I was drawn to explore the meaning of wisdom, especially God's wisdom. What are the glimpses of wisdom I have observed in my life? During my missionary years in Papua New Guinea, I remember times when I witnessed ancient traditions that caused me to admire the natural gifts of the people with whom I lived. I pondered, what is this cultural wisdom of an old woman sitting on a beach on a remote Island, boiling the red roots of a certain plant so she could weave a beautiful basket with fuchsia designs to give to her granddaughter? I observed the traditional wisdom of an old man who remembered how to use certain leaves and seeds to heal people of his own clan. I came to understand that these indigenous people were drawing from their rich cultural traditions that God had planted in their ancestral story. God's gift of their creative cultural wisdom was being used for the good of the people.

In this present day, I am also thinking of the "wisdom of this age." When I consider the practice of some political leaders, arrogant rulers and ruthless dictators who dominate people for their own personal power and wealth, trampling on the common good of ordinary people, I understand that they draw their philosophy and methods from a source different from God's wisdom; their resource is drawn from the evils of this world, counter to the Spirit of God.

With Paul, as he addresses the people of Corinth, we long to know spiritual people who are guided by God's gift of wisdom and insight, a wisdom that is filled with mystery from the beginning of time, hidden in the depths of God—the mystery that all who love God will be given the gift of the Spirit to comprehend the immeasurable depths of God. These gifts of the Spirit are given to us through Jesus Christ who emptied himself and became one of us to reveal to us the power and wisdom of our self-emptying God.



Photo of Antelope Canyon by Pattern Pictures from Pixabay

For Pondering

- Do you recall moments of graced insight that you have received from God during a period of darkness and confusion?
 - What are the gifts of God's wisdom you desire to experience in your life? Would you like to ask the Spirit for this gift as you discern your path in this phase of your life?
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Jesus' Prayer

Jesus prayed aloud:

"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to the childlike."

MATTHEW 11:25

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Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 (714) 744-3175

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