

March 15, 2023

 Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

Photo by Alan Carrillo from Unsplash

THE GREAT SHIFT

By Julie Mussché

*"I see a time of Seven Generations
when all the colors of mankind
will gather under the Sacred Tree of Life
and the whole earth will become One Circle again."*

—CRAZY HORSE

Reflection

The other day, while picking something up at the grocery store, I noticed many young couples shopping, some with infants. I could tell they were not just occasion shopping, but were instead doing their weekly house marketing. Twenty-somethings, there were quite a few of them, and I was surprised at the number of couples. These were the "March for Our Lives" generation I had walked with five years ago.

There are seven living generations now, that are book-ended by the Greatest Generation (1900-1925) and Gen Alpha (approximately 2010-). The Millennials, or Gen Y (1981-1996), comprise almost twenty-one percent of the U.S. population, with the Baby Boomers (1946-1964) as the second largest cohort. Gen Z (1997-2013) and Gen X (1965-1980) are third and fourth respectively. The Silent Generation (1928-1945) is roughly 6 percent of the population. Sheer numbers and the realities of mortality point to a generational shift in terms of influence and social dynamics.

One thing that I wondered after encountering more young nesters, what do they do for spiritual nourishment and were they part of a faith community? I know that young people are leaving religious institutions by droves. At the same time, I also personally know Millennials who are active in their synagogues or churches or serving in other ministries. While according to various reports the majority of young people are “nones,” recent information suggests that Gen Y and Z, influenced by the stress of the pandemic, are seeking the comfort and community that religion or a spiritual life provides.

To get a feel for what youth believe, contemporary music offers a glimpse. Did you watch the Grammys this year? It was pretty cool, a mix of old and new, a blending of generations. While not televised, the Gospel/Contemporary Christian Music category really inspires me. I invite you to check out this category.



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For Pondering & Prayer

- What are your hopes for all living generations?
- When have you encountered generational differences or the bridging of generations?
- How do you envision the hope of Seven Generations?

*Great Unifier, giver of life and generations, that we all may be one in You.
Amen*

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