

May 7, 2018

" The Lord takes delight in his people"

As I read the psalm for today I was transported in my mind to a scene in my living room in Gainesville, Florida 47 years ago. My son , just 18 months old, was sitting on the floor lining up his cars as I sat on the couch watching him. We had moved to Florida when Robbie was only 6 weeks old . I had been stressed with being a mother for the first time, adjusting to a new city , and being without family and friends. But for some reason on that particular day as I looked at my son I was overwhelmed with an incredible depth of love gratitude and joy as I watched

him . And the thought came into my mind, "This is what God must have felt when he created mankind!" I think the Lord does delight in his people especially when he sees us caring for one another and for this wondrous creation the earth. I imagine his laughter watching the joy of sacramental celebrations like First Communions, Confirmations and Weddings. I see him smiling as he watches his people experience the beauty of a waterfall, a sunrise, a flowering tree. And I think he claps his hands in happiness when he sees us caring for a sick relative, working for the unborn,the homeless, and the migrant, teaching a child the sign of the cross and forming a relationship with an outcast or stranger. We are God's beloved children and he gives us chances each day to return joy to our Father in all we do. How will you delight God today?

Peace, Dinah Tichy

May 8, 2018

SJPII Daily Reflection for Tuesday, May 8, 2018

In the presence of the angels I will sing your praise. Psalm 138:1

Do you believe that God graced you with a guardian angel the day your soul was created? I do! I can reflect on so many times in my life when my guardian angel intervened and protected me from harm or helped me with discernment. Paul and Silas were graced with by the intervention of God's saving actions in our first reading from Acts today. God intervenes with messengers and guides for those in the Bible and those guiding forces are available to us today and throughout our lives.

I recall a discussion with one of my nieces when I had the opportunity to attend Mass with my brother's family. I asked her if she knew why the ceilings in churches were so high. I told her it was so there was enough room for all the guardian angels to attend Mass with us. I figured this one out on my own. Well, not all on my own...

Blessings to you always...Michele Ashby

May 9, 2018

“The God who made the world and all that is in it, the Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands”

“Heaven and earth are full of your glory.”

I love how Pope Francis has mentioned time and again the importance of caring for God’s creation . My husband and I have been blessed to see so much of this wonderful planet God has created. I am blown away by the canyons of Arizona and Utah, the majesty of the cliffs overlooking the ocean in Maine, California and Ireland, the glaciers of Alaska, the mountains of Oregon, Seattle, and Tennessee, and the waterfalls of Yosemite and Yellowstone. And camping in the woods I am overwhelmed as I look up and see the multitude of stars and planets that make up our universe. The heavens and the earth are so full of God’s glory!

And then:

I think that the Lord who made all of this, the God of creation comes into my heart each time I receive the Eucharist! How awesome and humbling to know that he has chosen me to become a part of the Body of Christ. How can we ever make a return for all that God has done for us? For today I will offer my profound gratitude for all these gifts we have received from God’s bounty. What are you most grateful for this day? Celebrate the glory of God.

Peace, Dinah Tichy

May 10, 2018

John 16:16-20

Rarely do I consider myself on the same level as the apostles, but in today’s Gospel, they are clueless; at last, I’m just like the apostles. Modern readers, with the aid of 20-20 hindsight, know Jesus is referring to his crucifixion and death, which his disciples will mourn and grieve, even as worldly powers rejoice that Jesus can no longer expose their wickedness. We also know Jesus’ followers will experience great joy when Jesus is resurrected from the dead on the third day, and spends an additional forty days with his disciples preparing them for their mission and reception of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

However, as I face trials in my life, trials that I know reveal weaknesses and flaws in my relationship with God so that I may address them if I but examine the situation prayerfully, I find I share the apostles bewilderment. As I move forward in time, facing new trials, new challenges, new uncertainties in life, I complain to God, "I don't understand! I want to do your will, but I don't know what your will for me is in this situation." I pray this, complete with whining voice and a petulant pout on my face, because God expects me to "...work out my own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12). But in my self-pity I forget that Paul wrote this sentence just after recording the famous hymn, "Who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped...." (Phil 2:5-11), and that Paul wrote this to the Church at Philippi, not to an individual. As Dennis Hamm, SJ points out in the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture: Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, Paul is expressing that we seek our salvation, the will of God, communally as well as individually. And God often answers my pleading prayer through my Faith Community; in a word from a friend, at Mass, at Bible Study, at a meeting of a small group, a committee or commission meeting, a phrase in a book, or a bit of dialogue from a TV show or movie. Because the Holy Spirit, which Jesus sent to guide the Church after his ascension, uses all of the resources of the world to provide God's answer. All I have to do is listen. –

Lynell Chamberlain

May 11, 2018

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May 12, 2018

John 16:20-23

Yesterday, the disciples murmured among themselves in bewilderment at Jesus' words alluding to his death and resurrection. In today's Gospel, Jesus employs a frequently used metaphor in the Old Testament to describe suffering, and the birth of a new messianic people (Is 26:17; Jer 30:6; Hos 13:13; Mic 4:9-10), labor and birth. The [Navarre Study Bible](#) explains this metaphor also refers to the pain, suffering, and joy associated with the birth of the new People of God (Christ's Church). The disciples' understanding will grow when they spend more time with Jesus following his Resurrection and when the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost.

Interestingly, my own questions and confusion ease when I spend more time with Christ as well; time spent in prayer, in study, in Adoration, in the Mass, in reception of the Eucharist, and in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Just as the apostles' faith and trust grew as they spent more time with Jesus, so too does mine. And as my faith and trust in Christ grows, my fear and anxiety decreases. I am not alone. God is with me, if I allow him to be.