



WELLSPRING

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Wellspring Community Outreach

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Brothers and Sisters,

We continue our reflections on peacefulness and serenity. Last week, we reflected on embracing the grace of the moment as a source of peace and serenity. We find peace and serenity when we open our eyes to the goodness of God all around us. God is present moment by moment, in our struggles, our failures and our successes. What else can we feel but peace and serenity when we arrive at this truth.

Some consider the world as an enemy, devil-ridden, doomed, dangerous. Many view the world as a terrible place, a playground of the devil. Many are obsessed with apocalyptic visions of the end of the world that they keep looking for signs of the end. Others are so terrified of crime, violence and war that they see the world as a dangerous place to be in.

Many are unable to embrace their own experience. Many of us have a tendency to escape our present, fleeing into busyness and distractions. Some of us live Superficially, staying on the surface. Albert Schweitzer says, "Your soul suffers if you live superficially." Many have the attitude that says religion, spirituality, experience of the divine are all for a special kind of people who have a special calling.

All of the above attitudes block our spiritual awakening. We need to embrace the world believing that it is full of meanings, mystery, wonder and other blessings which our God has placed in the world he created. Albert Einstein was once asked, "what is the most important question you can ask in life?" He replied, "Is the universe friendly or not?"

Seeing the world as a friend calls us to relationships that are intimate, caring, loving, compassionate and mutually respectful. Seeing the world as a friend is like seeing the world for the first time. Seeing the world as a living, breathing being encourages us to appreciate the physical beauty of the world around us. Seeing the world as God's creation, God's masterpiece of art and beauty calls us to recognize and experience God's glory here and now. St. Ireneus says, "The glory of God is man fully alive." The Psalmist sings, "The heavens declare the glory of

God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands.....no speech, no words their voice is not heard.” (Psalm 19)

How amazing...the heaven proclaim the universe without words or speeches!!! What else can we feel but joy, peace and serenity!!!

We need to have no fear as long as we put our trust in the saving Grace of God and his abiding presence all around us. The spiritually illiterate will miss these connections. When we are spiritually literate, we discover that the whole world is charged with sacred meaning, with purpose, with life, with power, with spirit, with God. !!! What else can we feel but joy, peace and serenity!!!

More to come.....

**Be sure to take a few still moments during the week.
Bless yourself with stillness!**

Be Still Moment - Allow yourself to be still for a moment

Patience is more than just waiting. Patience is about the courage to continue, the strength to smile through pain, and the hope that no matter how rough the weather - the storm will pass.

Salesian Moment – A moment with St. Francis de Sales

Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.

Miracles do happen...

A certain company had a tradition of holding a party and a lottery every new year Eve. The rules of the lottery draw were as follows: each employee pays ten dollars as a fund. There were three hundred people in the company, which amounts to a total of three thousand dollars. The winner takes all the money home.

On the day of the lottery draw, the office was filled with a lively atmosphere. Everyone wrote their names on the slips of paper and put them in the lottery box. However, a young man hesitated when he wrote. Because he thought that the company's Cleaning lady's frail and sickly son was going to have an operation soon after the dawn of New Year but she did not have the required money to pay for the operation. So, even though he knew that the chance of

winning was slim, with only a three percent chance, the man wrote the name of the Cleaning lady on the note.

The tense moment came. The boss doubled in the lottery box and finally drew out a note. The man also kept praying in his heart, hoping against hope that the Cleaning lady would win the prize...Then the boss carefully announced the winner's Name: The Cleaning lady was the winner. Cheers broke out in the office, and the Cleaning lady hurriedly rushed to the stage to accept the award. She burst into tears and said, "I am so fortunate and blessed! With this money, my son now has hope!"

At the beginning of the party, while thinking about this to be "a miracle", the man paced to the lottery box. He took out a piece of paper and opened it casually. The name on it was also the name of the Cleaning lady! The man was very surprised. He took out several pieces of paper one after another. Although the handwriting on them was different, the names were all the same, all of them were the name of the Cleaning lady. The man's eyes were filled with tears of joy. Miracles do happen just where we are with just ordinary people on just the ordinary days of everyday life.

At the Post Office...



A customer walked into the post office wanting to mail a package.

"Two-day shipping will cost \$12.95 to get it there by Friday," said the postal service clerk

The customer, clearly looking to save a few bucks, said, "The package doesn't have to get there till Saturday. Is there any way to make that happen?" The Clerk replied, "Sure. You can bring it back tomorrow!"

Did you Know?

Meet the first American bishop – continued from last week...

Bishop Carroll's Prayer for the Newly Formed Government of the United States

Bishop John Carroll composed the following prayer in November 1791, asking the Holy Spirit to assist the president of the United States, provide divine wisdom for the Congress and the newly formed government of the United States. He asked that the prayer be prayed in every parish. It is still read in many parishes and is applicable today:

“We pray, O almighty and eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church, being spread throughout the world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of your name.

“Finally, we pray to you, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of your servants departed, who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives and friends; of those who, when living were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance.

To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech you, a place of refreshment, light and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, Amen.”

Pope Leo XIV.....

Pope at Angelus: God's Kingdom grows quietly through love, not force

The parables of the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, and the yeast, from the Gospel reading of the sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Pope Leo said, reveal the way God acts in history and in the lives of men and women. Pope Leo urged Christians to reject the temptation to seek spectacular displays of God's power, reminding the faithful that the Kingdom of God grows quietly and patiently, like a tiny seed or a little yeast working unseen.

Rather than imposing Himself by force or arriving in triumph, the Pope said, God chooses "smallness" as the sign of His patient love. "He leaves us free to accept or reject Him," Pope Leo said. God's love makes its presence felt even "among the weeds," works invisibly like the smallest of seeds, and transforms the world silently, like yeast in dough, the Pope said.

He said that Christians are called to recognize that the Kingdom grows even amid the presence of evil. This requires learning to discern the good that continues to emerge despite darkness, resisting the temptation to make hasty judgments, and patiently accompanying the gradual work of God's grace. The Kingdom, he continued, often appears in the ordinary moments of daily life, growing unnoticed yet constantly at work. Even when God seems absent, the Pope assured the faithful, He is always present and His love is always ready to help.

Pope Leo went on to say that God's way of acting must also become the way Christians live, both personally and as members of the Church. He encouraged believers to adopt what he described as a "Gospel-centered approach," avoiding arrogance, the desire to dominate others, or the use of power to impose the faith. Instead, Christians should place their trust in God's quiet work.

Pray for each other.....

Let us stay close to each other in spirit and prayer as we continue our journey through life with all its joyful moments as well as moments not so joyful. Be faithful to your calling! All you do may not be successful in your eyes or in the eyes of others. The real success lies in your fidelity to who you are and what you have come to know as your calling. Just be faithful and be joyful!

God bless you and your families,

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

**It takes a lifetime to learn to live authentic lives,
but it takes only a minute to offer your love, your kindness,
your understanding....your gift to the person awaiting your attention.**



A knocker-upper was someone whose purpose was to wake people up during a time when alarm clocks were expensive and not very reliable. They earned about six pence a week using a pea shooter to shoot dried peas at the windows of sleeping workers in East London, 1930s. She would not leave a window until she was sure that the workers had woken up.

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