

Lenten Reflection

Thursday, February 11, 2016

By Sister Angela Provost, CDP



“If anyone wishes to come after me, (they) must deny (themselves) and take up (their) cross daily and follow me.” [Luke 9:23]

Now you may have noticed the word *daily* when Jesus tells us to “take up your cross.” I might have heard it previously but my reaction this time was: “I had not noticed that word inserted there before!” Yes, it makes sense that one does not complete the action of denying oneself and taking up one’s cross only once! I have known that it is on-going, but “daily” seemed to have jumped out at me this time.

Last week I showed the young children a story (DVD) by Max Lucado about *Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift*. In the story, Punchinello has a good friend that he loves to visit up on the mountain. His name is Eli, which in Hebrew means “High” or “my God.” During the story, I asked the children who they thought Eli was. They quickly responded “God.” At one point while Punchinello was talking with Eli he tells him: “Eli, I love you. I wouldn’t be me without you.” What a beautiful way to picture my relationship with my God!

In the same light, on this feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, was the persistence of Bernadette Soubirous and her apparitions of Our Lady at the Grotto of Massabielle, France. Her daily act of selflessness and total dedication in the face of other opinions, exemplified her daily choice of how she was going to carry her cross.

In a similar way, we are reminded that we need to lose our life through our “daily acts” to save ourselves. So I ask myself how/where will I find my cross today? How will I carry it with me during my day? How will I follow or walk along beside my Provident God during these days of renewal, these days of Lent, this year? Reminding myself that I wouldn’t be me without my God!