

Lenten Reflection

Good Friday, March 25, 2016

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Today, I want to focus our attention on questions we have been hearing over these past years. What did you see? What do you see, Jesus? What did you feel while on the cross? You were faced with incredible suffering. What did you see that sustained you in fidelity and commitment?

I remember during my novitiate a priest theologian telling us, "I hope that you have a very hard and challenging novitiate, close to the heart of Jesus and the people of God and their struggle because, if not, you will be afraid of the shadow of the cross."

We don't ask for the cross; we don't want the cross; most of us are afraid of the cross because it connects us with suffering, chaos, uncertainty and the unknown...all of which take us to the darkness that led Jesus to say, "Abba, dear beloved, why did you abandon me?"

What did you see that moved you from the place of feeling abandonment, emptiness, and loneliness to a space capable of seeing the needs of those around you and challenging them to respond with transformative love? What were you really thirsty for? What moved you to the space of faith, where you were able to abandon yourself and trust in the Holy Mystery in the darkness surrounding you and allowed you to respond: "In you I place my spirit."

From the vantage point of the cross, what did you see and what do we keep seeing today? Are there women with the power to love, who recognize injustice and choose not to respond with indifference? Are they there with courage, recognizing that you are calling them to a new story? Are there children with new eyes and curiosity, witnessing and hoping for a better future? Are there immigrants standing with courage and following by living the cross? Are there leaders in the middle of darkness with their hearts, minds, and wills open to the Holy Mystery, waiting for the meaning of the call and realizing this is the time and if not now, when? Are there the "anawin," the poor, who depend on the Lord for deliverance?

There are you choosing to respond in fidelity to respond with love and being available to pay the price to stay with the poor. Choosing makes that difference! Choosing is what empowers us. Freely choosing a stance of life and justice changes you and calls you stay on the side of people of God. Show us, Jesus, at this time that we are called to make the difference by choosing life, by responding and assuming the responsibility of our call and our vision. Let us turn our eyes upward and see that we are the "anawin," bearing the cross for this time with its promise of life and transformation. The totality of the Cosmos is waiting for our choice of life and the giving of our life.