



Everyone Can Be an Artisan of Peace

Theological Reflection #3



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

- ✚ Recognize our interconnectedness with all creation and seek to live in harmony with all of life reflecting this in our prayer, practices, and policies.
- ✚ Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into our everyday lives.

Opening Hymn: *Canticle of the Sun* by Marty Haugen, vs. 1-2

Readings **Job 12:7-10** **Colossians 1:15-17** ***Laudato Si'* (233)**
(Take 5 or so minutes for contemplative silence.)

Ponder and Share

1. How do these mystical expressions of all creation's unity in Christ relate to today's understanding of scientific realities?
2. The ideal is to discover God in all things. When and where have you discovered God present in the realities and experiences of creation.

Prayer response: (adapted from) ***A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation***

Triune God, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love for all creatures of this earth
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Sing: *Canticle of the Sun*, vs.3-4

Related Reading: (adapted from) ***Bless This Mess & Other Prayers*** by Jo Carr & Imogene Sorley

It takes courage to be crocus-minded God, I'd rather wait until June,
like wise roses, when the hazards of winter are safely behind,
and I'm expected, and everything's ready for roses.

But crocuses? Highly irregular!

Knifing up through hard-frozen ground and snow,
sticking their necks out, because they *believe* in spring
and have something personal and emphatic to say about it.

God, I am by nature rose-minded.
Even when I have studied the situation here
and know there are wrongs that need righting, affirmations that need stating,
and know also that my speaking out may offend – for it rocks the boat –
well, I’d rather wait until June.
Maybe later things will work themselves out, and we won’t have to make an issue of it.

God, forgive.
Wrongs don’t work themselves out.
Injustices and inequities and hurt don’t just dissolve.

Somebody has to stick her neck out,
somebody who cares enough
to think through and work through hard ground,
because she believes and has something personal and emphatic to say about it.

Me, God? Crocus-minded?
Could it be that there are things that need to be said,
and you want me to say them?

I pray for courage. Amen.

Sing: *Prayer of St. Francis* by Sebastian Temple

Invitation to Action

Expressions of Peace

Consider creating a poem, photograph, prayer, or other work of creative expression that highlights our commitment to “recognize our interconnectedness with all creation and seek to live in harmony with all of life.” Then notify Tim in the CP Shalom Office (tdewane@ssndcp.org) so he can work with you on discerning the best way to share your artistic expression of peace with the province.

Practice

- 1) Acknowledge the ways you are intentionally living in harmony with creation and add a new one.
- 2) Spend some time this week connecting with creation in some creative way. (e.g Talk to a favorite plant or flower and listen to what it might be saying to you.)



- *Prepared by the Shalom Peace and Nonviolence Committee*