

In the letter from the Congregational Leadership Team (October 2016) we saw many questions for reflection. **How am I responding to these questions today?**

Looking around the world today, can I give any answer to, or make any sense of all the situations happening in different places?

As a Contemplative of the Good Shepherd I can bring all things to prayer and converse with God about them. What can be done? Someone once said, ‘‘don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and go and do that, because what the world needs are people who have come alive.’’

As a Good Shepherd Contemplative one of the most exciting things about being alive as opposed to merely existing, is to know that there is always more to discover about one’s self, one’s potential, one’s creativity – and more to discover about others too. Each one of us, no matter who we are, no matter what we may think of ourselves, no matter what label others may have stuck on us, is special and has something to contribute to our community and to our world because of the God-given gifts and talents uniquely ours to share.

The world bleeds copiously. In facing the enormity of evils that confronts us, and in trying hard to find a global solution, we run the risk of disregarding what is small. What we discover in the history of salvation is that God acts through small things, and chooses a small people (Dt7, 7). We are invited to take small but real steps in our communities.

The present moment, every object we see, our inmost nature -- all are rooted in God. But we hesitate to believe this until our own personal experience gives us confidence to believe in it. This involves the gradual development of intimacy with God. God constantly speaks to us through each other as well as within ourselves. The interior experience of God’s presence activates our capacity to experience God-Self in everything else—in people, in events, in nature. We may enjoy union with God in any experience of the external senses as well as in prayer. Najwa Zebian says:

*Don’t break a bird’s wings and then tell it to fly.
Don’t break a heart and then tell it to love.
Don’t break a soul and tell it to be happy.
Don’t see the worst in a person and expect them to see the best in you.
Don’t judge people and expect them to stand by your side.
Don’t play with fire and expect to stay safe.
Life is about giving and taking.
You cannot expect to give bad and receive good.
You cannot expect to give hate and receive love.
So if you’re willing to see positive change in your life, you must be willing
to be that change itself.*

--- Sr. Lilly Devasia Kunnanattu
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