



In the tradition of the
Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

August, September, 2019

Loving Relationships

“Love is Patient...”

Have you ever wondered why St. Paul placed patience at the forefront of the characteristics of Love in his letter to the Corinthians? I have! Patience has not always been my most prominent virtue and I would guess, judging on the cut offs on the highway or the rude comments when someone at the check-out has some problem that many of us have a fair amount of difficulty in practicing patience.

Recently, I was on my annual retreat at a large retreat house in New Jersey. I found myself practicing this virtue of “loving patience” since many of the retreatants were elderly religious. Lines at the bookstore, at meals, walking the corridors gave me ample opportunity to meditate on the first part of this quotation from 1Cor. 13- *Love is patient...*

Perhaps my awareness was heightened or perhaps I received the grace to appreciate walking more slowly, more reflectively. Or perhaps I have come to experience the great gift that patience is to our world. The practice of patience is a gift we can all give to those around us and as recipients of the loving patience of others, we grow in awareness of how we are becoming more like the Divine.

I also came to understand how patience is factored into genuine loving relationships through this quotation from Pope Francis in *Rejoice and Be Glad:*

“I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God’s people:

- in those parents who raise their children with immense love,
- in those men and women who work hard to support their families,
- in the sick,
- in elderly religious who never lose their smile.”

There are many opportunities to be patient and to practice this facet of loving relationships on a daily basis in our lives and in our ministries. Patience is a work of the heart!

Do you have a story of practiced loving patience you wish to share? Or has someone showered loving patience upon you recently? Please consider sharing your stories with all those who minister in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. You can do this by sending your stories to me and I will share these good news stories with all in our sponsored ministries.

Please know that you and your families are remembered in our daily prayer.

In the Holy Family,

Sister Barbara Jean

Director for Mission Integration

bjwojnicky@yahoo.com

