



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

March, 2019

Recognizing God in the Everyday

One of our Sisters was gifted with a simple hand-colored designed paper enclosed in a plastic sleeve. In the center of the design was written:

Find Joy in the Ordinary!

How appropriate as we move toward the fourth Sunday of Lent called Laetare or Joyful Sunday, that we reflect on this short but powerful statement. *Find* denotes a more active verb than recognize, it seems to me. To find, means that I must be looking for something. Am I *looking for* God in my ministry? Am I *finding* God?

As co-ministers of CSFN sponsored ministries, we are invited over these months to open wide not only our physical eyes, but also the eyes of our heart to the presence of God in our midst. And as we do, we are given the gift to see beyond and beneath our experiences to recognize the sacred (God) at the heart of all that is.

I challenge myself and all of you, my fellow co-ministers to look for and find God in our everyday ministries in fresh new ways.

Accepting the challenge, and with the support and encouragement of those with whom we minister, we can live differently. Why? Because where we are is holy! Therefore, everything-every event, situation, or experience- has the potential to be a God moment. Let us have the courage to ask: *How is God present in this experience?*

For a personal story by Sally Unger from Nazareth Academy Grade School please continue to read:

“Having gone through one of the most difficult times in my life recently I thought I would share what my brothers and sisters have found God through our Nazareth connection.

My Mom died on October 24th...her death came quite suddenly and with very little warning. As we gathered as a family to say what would be our last goodbyes, we found overwhelming support from the Sisters. I called Sister Linda, Sister Yvette and my sister Mary called Sister Evey. I remember vividly my conversation with Sister Linda when she said, “What do you want me to pray for?” and I said, “that she doesn’t suffer, I do not want her to suffer.” Sister responded “DONE!” Sister Yvette texted me through the night and her goodness and kindness will never be forgotten. Sister Evey did the very same for Mary, texting her into the wee morning hours.

As the last few months have progressed we continue to find God in our everyday experiences with the Sisters. When we started the task of packing Mom’s clothes..., we called Sister Teresa Mary. She came within the hour, so that once we were finished we would not have to sit and look at the boxes. She came into the house and shared stories about past visits with Mom and how much they meant to her.

We are blessed to have gone through this time knowing we were surrounded by support, love, faith and prayers by the Sisters who have been with us throughout most of our lives. So finding God in those everyday experiences seems normal for us.”

If you have a story/encounter you’d like to share about recognizing God in the everyday, please send them to me at:

bjwojnicky@yahoo.com. Your insights and reflections help us all become more attuned to the great graces God gives to us each day.

May God continue to bless you during this Lenten season.

Sister Barbara Jean

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