



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

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Recognizing God in the Everyday

The Easter Season presents us with several Resurrection appearances of Jesus. In most instances, the person does not “recognize” Jesus!

Recently, I have been reflecting on the word “recognize”. The dictionary definition of recognize is “to identify from having encountered a person before.”

I wonder, then, what prevented these early followers of Jesus from recognizing the Master whom they have witnessed and loved. Was it sheer disbelief or a judgement about the likelihood that one could rise from the dead that led some to think he was a stranger, a gardener or one who made breakfast on the beach? Calling a person by name, explaining the Scriptures and cooking breakfast are tender stories that demonstrate God’s love and mercy in Jesus Christ.

In our daily interactions with others, are we able to recognize the God who abides within them or do we at times judge on appearances? Share your story of recognizing God in your everyday! Here are some to ponder.

“At work, I encountered a rather tense person who had a young son. She was sitting defiant and snapping answers back to me when I offered to help her son. She thanked me and seemed to soften. I heard her quietly tell her son that he needed some patience since they would be spending the day in the hospital. I then asked her about her hospital visit. She welled with tears and began to share the story of her daughter who has had multiple surgeries to correct her physical defects. They had been to several hospitals in search of alleviation of her constant pain. She was not able to purchase the daughter’s prescriptions. They were denied Social Security as well. The once angry mother had completely transformed into a worried mother as she relayed their years of struggle.

I was able to give her some assistance and a gift card for food. Small gestures, but the mother stood and asked if she could give me a hug. I was not able to help her struggle, but acknowledging her struggle made all the difference. What I witnessed was not just an isolated glimpse of God in the everyday, but God in every single day of this mother’s struggle!”

(submitted by: Susan Motycki, Holy Family Institute)

“I see God everywhere at Nazareth Academy High School. We are fortunate to have such a beautiful chapel and it is refreshing to see faculty, staff, and students bow as they pass the Chapel on their way to class, etc. I see God both in the mission and in the students.

I believe that Nazareth is staffed by teachers who want to be here for a reason. Our teachers are here not only to communicate their subject matter, but they also exemplify spirituality, service and caring.”

(submitted by: Patricia Quinn, Nazareth Academy High School)

I hope to hear from you and the many ways that God is present in your everyday!

If you are completing your academic year, you may want to consider noticing God’s presence in your everyday throughout the year.

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