



Where there is peace, there is God

by Sister Carol Jean Dust, SSND

In the Scripture passages used during the Easter season we often hear greetings of peace from Jesus, the Risen One:

"Jesus came and stood among the apostles. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.' " (John 20:19-21)

"Eight days later the disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you', he said." (John 20:26)

After the two disciples walking to Emmaus had encountered Jesus, they ran and recounted their experience to the eleven apostles who had gathered.

"They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!'" (Luke 24:36)

This message of peace is a gift of God that comes through fidelity to discernment of God's call. During the discernment there is plenty of wondering and wandering through what one is noticing and experiencing, feeling and questioning, not different from the disciples on the way to Emmaus. There are expectations, anxiety, seeking and gathering information, discovering, resting and ultimately peace. Discernment leads to truth and through truth into freedom. Recall Mary Magdalene in the garden after Jesus had risen, wandering, questioning the "gardener", thinking that death had the final word, until she experienced the gardener was Jesus! With this recognition came truth, and with this truth came freedom overflowing into joy and peace. Mary sees and is freed to act. In interior freedom there is peace.

Our Foundress, Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, wrote in one of her letters two years before her death at 82 years old, "Where there is peace, there is God; where God, there is every good." (Letter #5220) She herself passed through many discernments throughout her lifetime and nearly 50 years of leading her sisters. She could clearly encourage and comfort them, as the Risen One did to the disciples, that *peace* is the evidence of the presence of God, the confirmation that a decision, or a next step towards a decision, is of God.

For Reflection

Pray with any of the Scripture passages above or words of Blessed Theresa of Jesus.

- Where are you experiencing wonder or wandering or questioning as the Emmaus disciples and Thomas did?
- Where does the outside of you and the inside of you meet? Does it foster an increase of love, joy and peace as it did for Mary Magdalene in the garden?



Let Us Love Peace

Jesus, you love peace more than anything else ...

You cry out to us, "Shalom! Peace be with you!" (Luke 24:36)

Your peace overcomes all anxiety.

Your peace even conquers death.

Jesus, peace means

to receive mercy and love from You,

to forgive others because You forgive us,

not to cause anxiety, but to encourage...

Jesus, let us love peace as You love it.

Amen.

Excerpts of "Let Us Love Peace," taken from "You, God; Prayer-Meditations on Words of Mother M. Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger" by Theo Schmidkonz, S.J. Translated by Sister Anne Winkelmann, SSND, 1992. p.37.



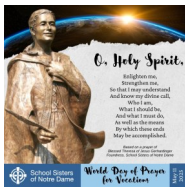
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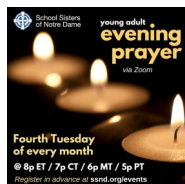
Feast of Blessed Theresa of Jesus

May 9, 2025



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

May 11, 2025

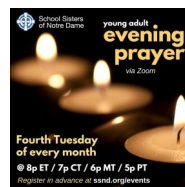


Young Adult Evening Prayer

For young adults ages 18+

May 27, 2025

8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT



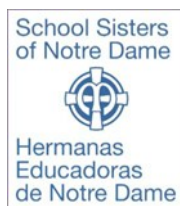
Young Adult Evening Prayer

For young adults ages 18+

June 24, 2025

8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT

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God's cause
is the *only* concern of
our hearts
Blessed Theresa of Jesus
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