

Reflection Monday Week 2 – 2021

In the Song of the Seed, *Macrina Wiederkehr* writes: "Every human being has an obligation to return to this planet and to all its creatures the sound of beauty, the power of prayer, the sense of harmony. In O PIONEERS!, Willa Cather reminds us of our need to believe in the good soil of our lives, to do what we can to wake it up and then to wait.

"The land had its little joke. It pretended to be poor because nobody knew how to work it right; and then all at once it worked itself. It woke up out of its sleep and stretched itself and it was so big, so rich, that we suddenly found we were rich, just from sitting still."

We can learn the same lesson from sitting still with the land of the heart. It, too, has its little jokes. We think it is poor soil because we don't know how to work it. When we learn to do our inner work, it will wake up and work itself. All we need is a PATIENT WAITING and a TENDER ABIDING.

Our time of the pandemic certainly involves patient waiting, preparing ourselves for the future with tender expectation. It is a time for preparing the wine skin of our spiritual lives to receive the new wine that will follow, making this a very precious time not to be wasted. Some of the richness to come will be in response to the care and help we have shown to others but more because we recognise that this is God's time, therefore precious in its own right, allowing us to refresh our skins.

Let's pray that Mary, the mother of Jesus, will pray with us and for us.

Holy Mary, Woman of the new wine, guard our desire to go forward in obedience to the Spirit, help us recognise the Spirit's presence in the new wine, fruit of harvests and new seasons. Keep us open to your grace and diligent in preparing wineskins that will contain and not waste the juices of the vine. Keep our steps firm. Teach us to respond to Christ, your Son, with loving and joy-filled hearts. Jesus is the new wine for which we give thanks and receive blessing. Nourish our hope that we may share its blessing in new ways in the future for the glory of God and the coming of the Kingdom. Amen.

On the last day of reception school, the children brought presents for their teacher.

The florist's son handed the teacher a gift. She shook it, held it up and said, "I bet I know what it is - it's some flowers!" "That's right!" shouted the little boy.

Then the sweet shop owner's daughter handed the teacher a gift. She held it up, shook it and said, "I bet I know what it is - it's a box of chocolates!" "That's right!" shouted the little girl.

The next gift was from the off-licence owner's son, Little Johnny. The teacher held it up and saw that it was leaking. She touched a drop with her finger and tasted it. "Is it wine?" she asked. "No," Little Johnny answered.

The teacher touched another drop to her tongue. "Is it champagne?" she asked. "No," he answered. Finally, the teacher said, "I give up. What is it?"

Little Johnny happily replied, "It's a puppy!"