

Reflection Tuesday week 16 - 2021

One of the models of the Church from Vatican II was **FAMILY**. The Church is a Family. Anyone baptised enters into a family. Our anthem should be the *Sister Sledge* song – *We are family . . .!* Jesus' response to those who tell him his family is outside is: "*Don't you realise that we are all family, that you are my family too?*" This helps us understand why Jesus placed his family (*US*) into the gentle arms of Mary, his mother. Rather than demeaning his family, Jesus lifts all of us to the level of his family – we are being honoured! Recently we have realised that the Earth is an essential part of our family.

My Loyal Friend (Patricia A. Fleming) (*Replace the tree with Jesus!*)

Outside my bedroom window
stands an old majestic tree.
She's been standing there for decades,
just as proud as she can be.

And every morning when I wake,
she's the first thing that I see.
This lovely constant in my life,
so magnificent and free.

I can see the early, rising sun
peek through her lush green leaves.
I can hear her moving gently,
in the summer's warming breeze.

In the Spring she comes alive again,
as her leaves begin to bloom.
And beneath the sun's attention,
you can almost see her swoon.

And in the heat of summertime,
when her joy is magnified.
She's never looked more beautiful,
all "decked out to the nines."

And when the autumn creeps on in,
and a chill floats on the breeze,
she prefers to don more earthy tones,
and does just what she please.

But when the Winter's looming large,
it's impossible to hide;
as her barren limbs droop soulfully,
they betray her grief inside.

She's stood by me through all my days.
She's watched me laugh and cry.
She's listened so intently
while I've pondered on my life.

And when I see her dank and weary,
I will sit with her sometimes.
And all the years we've shared together
will come rushing back to mind.

But both of us are strong and true.
We've become the closest friends,
and we will weather every storm
together, till the end.

- **You may not be the dumbest person on Earth, but you better hope he doesn't die.**
- **We should send all of Earth's politicians to colonize Mars.** All that hot air would make it habitable very quickly!