

Homily 19th Sunday Year B 2021

Jane Tyson Clement wrote the poem, *Vigil*, about coming face to face with Jesus.

What would I do, O Master, if you came slowly out of the woods.

Would I know your step?

Would I know by my beating heart?

Would I know by your eyes?

Would I feel on my shoulder too, the burden you carry?

Would I rise and stand still till you drew near or cover my eyes in shame?

Or would I simply forget everything except that you had come and were here?

What would you do if you came face to face with Jesus? Ponder this question often!

Although not quite face to face, we encounter Jesus every time we come to the Eucharist just not quite in the same way as we might hope. Maybe we come carrying burdens and fail to see the eyes. We are aware of our shame and our failings and simply cannot forget everything that we bring to the eucharist. Nevertheless, the encounter is real just as the host and the wine is real. It is the body and blood of Jesus. Jesus is truly present as if he were standing before you. The priest says very clearly "The Body and Blood of Christ!" Then reaches out and places Christ in your hand. Christ reaches out to you and you reach out to Christ who gives himself totally to you. And we say: AMEN – YES – THANK YOU! This encounter opens us to the **Presence of God** all around us as the following poem by Victor P. Gendrano describes:

I see in every leaf movement
as playful breeze passes by
barely disturbing a nesting bird
the presence of God.

The mantle of teeming wildflowers
adorning the once barren plain.
In the changing of the seasons
I feel the ever presence of God.

The ceaseless gurgling of the brook
as it meanders down its way,
cacophony of myriad nature's sounds
announce the presence of God.

Laughter of innocent children
playing in parks or backyard.
Enjoying their uncomplicated simple world
in the watchful presence of God.

Amidst life's tears and turmoil
many mishaps and miscalculations,
I sought solace and found comfort
in the loving presence of God.

In the hectic humdrum of daily living,
fast-paced rat race for material gain,
insatiable yearning for more, make no room
for the presence of God.

All the world's problems and woes
are man-made, yet unacknowledged: religious wars
hate crimes, ethnic cleansing, violence
conveniently ignoring the presence of God.

If I am cognizant of God's love
and serve Him through those around me,
then, when my time comes, I will bask
in the glory and presence of God.

For in the presence of God, there is no hate
only familial love, peace, forgiveness,
understanding, compassion, helping hand
for no evil can withstand the presence of God!

I encountered an eagle with an identity crisis... He's watching me like a **hawk!!**

A photographer goes to a haunted castle determined to get a picture of a ghost on Halloween. The ghost he encounters turns out to be friendly and poses for a snapshot. The photographer later downloads his photos and finds that they are all dark.

Moral of the story: The **spirit** is willing, but the **flash** is weak.