

Reflection Monday Week 30 – 2021

The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. (Rm 8:16) This insight of St Paul shows that our spirit is not the same as the Holy Spirit but, if we allow it, the Holy Spirit will work in us through our spirit. This is clearly shown in the Annunciation to Mary. The Spirit does not work in Mary without her consent.

The woman bent double in the Gospel opens up many possible reflections. She could symbolise the many women who have been oppressed, belittled, side-lined, and ignored down through the ages. Women who seek to live a valuable role in society that only they can offer but are denied. Without women we live with just half a lung.

Not only does Jesus restore balance to the woman's life but also a certain balance to the community in which she lived.

On a different level, the woman speaks loudly to us of the oppression and abuse we have caused our environment and our world, not just hindering its growth and development but completely stifling its life. For God to help us and set creation free, it demands our cooperation and changing the way we live to a simpler and less wasteful lifestyle.

Mother Earth's Gifts (Kelly Roper)

Mother Earth gives her gifts for all to share,
she gives them freely, yet she's still aware
that things are changing, perhaps for the worse.
How much more can she give if our future is cursed?

It's way past time to put Mother Earth first,
to clean up the water before we all thirst,
to clean up the air before our lungs sicken,
to renew the soil and feel it quicken.

How long until the point of no return?
How much longer until we all finally learn,
that to this task we all must rise.

And stop abusing Mother Earth before she dies.