

Reflection Monday Week 1 – 2022

We begin this New Year like Hannah who faced a barren and humiliating future, unable to have a child but deeply and dearly loved. We face a future threatened by Covid. Some will die because of it. With the birth of Jesus fresh in our minds, we know that we are deeply and dearly loved by God; a love reinforced in our baptism when we became the beloved children of God. Like Hannah, we know not what the future holds for us and, like her, we yearn for new life, a life shared with others and with God.

Jesus wanted his journey to be synodal, he wanted to share it with others and so he invited others to join him. We join many others along the way and we *journey together*. It is in sharing our faith that we help each other along and discover how God is present in the simplest of moments as well as in the most stressful and impossible moments of life. The flow of faith, of life, through each of us has many names. It is essentially the love of God. It is grace, it is the power of the Holy Spirit, it is good-will, concern and compassion for others and much, much more.

Cover My Soul with the Shadow of Your Wing

Thanks to you, O God, I have risen today,
to the rising of life itself;
may it be to your glory,
O God of every gift,
and to the glory of my soul.
O great God, aid my soul
with the help of your mercy;
even as I clothe my body,
cover my soul with the shadow of your wing.
Help me avoid every sin,
and forsake the source of every sin;
and as the mist scatters
on the crest of the hills,
may each ill haze clear from my soul, O God. *Carmina Gadelica* adapted.

Driving home from a business trip through Northern Arizona, a chap stops to pick up an elderly Native American walking along the road.

After some small talk, the Native American noticed a brown bag on the seat next to the driver. "*What's in the bag?*" asked the old man.

Looking at the brown bag, the driver said, "*It's a bottle of wine. Got it for my wife.*"

The Native American was silent for a moment, and then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder he said, "***Mmmm! Good trade!!***"