

Reflection Monday Week 6 2023

The Pharisees raise the important questions about the signs of God's presence. For them and for us, the signs of God's presence are all around us. Creation is one of the best signs of God's presence in the way that it works together- when we allow it – to produce such wonders in the landscapes, mountains, woodland, flowers and fields. An even greater wonder is the human person. But even better is the presence of God in others as well as in ourselves.

Macrina Wiederkehr osb: *We stand in the midst of nourishment and we starve. We dwell in the land of plenty, yet we persist in going hungry. Not only do we dwell in the land of plenty; we have the capacity to be filled with the utter fullness of God. In the light of such possibility, what happens? Why do we drag our hearts? Lock up our souls? Why do we limp? Why do we straddle the issues? What do we live so feebly, so dimly? Why aren't we saints?*

The reason we live life so dimly and with such divided hearts is that we have never really learned how to be present with quality to God, to self, to others, to experiences and events, to all created things. We have never learned to gather up the crumbs of whatever appears in our path at every moment. We meet all these lovely gifts only half there. Presence is what we are all starving for. Real presence! We are too busy to be present, to blind to see the nourishment and salvation in the crumbs of life, the experiences of each moment. Yet the secret of daily life is this: There are no leftovers!

There is nothing- no thing, no person, no experience, no thought, no joy or pain that cannot be harvested and used for nourishment on our journey to God. Everything in your life is a stepping-stone to holiness if only you recognize that you do have within you the grace to be present to each moment.

A soldier on sentry duty fell asleep while standing up, And woke to find his commanding officer standing in front of him, looking furious. With great presence of mind, the soldier said, "**Amen!**"