

## Reflection Friday Week 19 - 2023

The Joshua reading today shows how much and how well God watched over the Israelites since the time of Abraham. If we were to seriously examine our lives, we too would see more clearly how much and how well God has watched over us too.

**Henri Nouwen** writes:

*I really don't know if our civilization will survive the century. Considering the growing threat of a nuclear holocaust there certainly is reason to wonder. What is more important is not if our civilization will survive but if we can continue to live with hope, and I really think we can because our Lord has given us his promise that he will stay with us at all times. He is the God of the living. He has overcome evil and death and his love is stronger than any form of death and destruction. That is why I feel that we should continually avoid the temptation of despair and deepen our awareness that God is present in the midst of all the chaos that surrounds us and that that presence allows us to live joyfully and peacefully in a world so filled with sorrow and conflict.*

He adds that we are a mosaic:

*...which consists of thousands of little stones of all colours. Close to the mosaic we can admire the beauty of each stone. But, as we step back, we can see that all these little stones reveal a beautiful picture, telling a story none of the stones can tell by itself.*

*This is a reflection of our faith community. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." Community is where humility and glory touch.*

**I ordered an extension course on "How to deal with Life's Disappointments".**

Yesterday, I received the first lesson by post.

It was an empty envelope.