

Reflection Wednesday Week 17 – 2023

Have you ever experienced people who when they enter the room everyone's face lights up? Or encountered a person who possesses a radiance that speaks of genuine goodness and holiness. As you walk away, you realise that you have had an experience of God's presence. The story of Moses whose face radiated God's presence is an example of this.

Brother Lawrence (17th C) joined the Carmelite Order in Paris where he remained for 50 years until his death. For years his main duty was cooking and cleaning in the kitchens of the priory. When his health began to fail, he was given the responsibility of repairing sandals for the monks. He wrote: *'We ought not be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed. It is not necessary to have great things to do; I cook my little omelette in the pan for the love of God.'*

Brother Lawrence lived a life in which every thought and action remain focused on God, not simply during formal prayer or worship but throughout every daily task, however humble. As he wrote, *'It is enough for me to pick up a straw from the ground for the love of God.'* He believed that humility is not thinking *'less of yourself'* but *'thinking of yourself less'* He was a quiet, humble man without any spiritual superiority and never talked down to people. He believed in the single overriding necessity of a lasting personal relationship with God in Christ himself. He wrote: *'The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in his divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in any way.'*

Mr. Green peered over his fence and noticed that the neighbour's little boy was in his backyard filling in a hole. Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?"

Tearfully, little Jimmy replied, "My goldfish died, and I've just buried him."

"That's an awfully large hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Mr. Green said.

Patting down the last bit of earth, little Joey replied, "That's because my goldfish is in your cat!"