

First Saturday in Lent - Theme: Intercessory prayer

Scripture: *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* (Matthew 6:21)

Reflection and Questions to Ponder

Where is your heart? To whom or to what do you listen? Where is it that you spend the majority of your time? Where you spend your time, there your heart is also!

For whom does your heart break? For whom does God’s heart break? These are important questions for you see, we are called to be a body of Christ and all members of the body are important, valued, keep the body functioning as it should function. When one member is hurt, missing, broken – when one member has been harmed, then time and focus is needed to restore, renew, heal, reconcile, forgive, enable, empower – what has been separated.

There is no Christian belief that only consists of an individual believer and God. The whole of creation, along with scripture, the gifts God has given to us and others, the voices and thoughts of others created in God’s image – these are all a part of our Christian walk.

Remember the comments from the Artist, Joe Hill;

I prepared clay for each cabinet member and mailed it to them. Among other prompts that I asked cabinet members to use while kneading their clay, I asked them to spend some time in focused prayer for Bishop Sandra. I asked each person to mail their clay back to me after finishing the prayer exercises. At the time, I wasn’t sure what I would shape from the clay. I stayed open in prayer to inspiration for a direction to take. I considered the many demands upon the Bishop as our episcopal leader. Just looking at her schedule, her calendar was overwhelming to me. What surfaced in me was a hope for Bishop Sandra to have moments and space to step away, be still, and find renewal in God’s love and presence.

What is God saying to you through the artist’s thoughts? Who needs your focused prayer and consideration?

As Christians, we believe that the divine presence of Christ is everywhere. God’s Spirit is a fountain from which we have an opportunity to drink every day. True prayer is not a relaxation technique, nor a wish list, nor a time for whipping up within us emotional fervor just for the sake of manufacturing for ourselves a kind of bliss. Prayer is being fully present to and with God. Prayer is not something we do to get what we want. Prayer moves us in ways that we cannot even think or imagine – it is beyond our wisdom. True prayer conforms us to Christ.

1. How might my prayer life be deepened?
2. What does my life depend on?
3. What are the true treasures in my life? Is my heart aligned with God’s heart and God’s way?
4. Who needs your intercessory prayer?
5. Be honest, if your heart is to be truly aligned with God’s heart and mission, how do you need to shift how you are spending your time?
6. An overload of bad news can numb our hearts. What issue or story from the news can you make a focus of intercessory prayer for this day or this week?

Prayer: Almighty God, help me to become more like Christ each and every day! Amen.