



Hope in the Future

Reflection Two

Recognising and Celebrating our Gifts



“There are many different gifts,
but it is always the same Spirit;
there are many different ways of serving,
but is always the same Lord.
There are many different forms of activity,
but in everybody it is the same God
who is at work in them all.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Gift

A gift is exciting: unwrapping and admiring it,
being glad for the love of the person who gave it,
using and sharing it ...
and perhaps discovering new skills because of it.

**I receive gifts. I give gifts.
I am a gift.**

My life is God's gift all the length of my days.
My hands and feet, ears and eyes,
my skills and pleasures are all God's gifts.
When I recognise the gifts of God,
when I own them as mine and use them,
I reflect God, the creator, the lover,
in whose image I am made.

**Hildegarde of Bingen described the presence of God,
the creator, in poetic imagery:**

I am the breeze that nurtures all things green.
I encourage the blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits.
I am the rain coming from the dew,
that causes the grasses to laugh with the joy of life.
All my gifts and skills,
contribute to the eternal celebration of the gift of life.
With God and in God I am bringing to birth the kingdom
of God's glory and peace, justice and love.
Brain-power and muscle-power have a part to play...
but I have to receive the kingdom trustingly, as a gift...
allowing the Holy Spirit to make me a channel
for the compassion of God:
to encourage and set free ...
to reconcile and make new.

We pause to Reflect and then share.

**Some of the gifts that God has given me to use for others
are.....**

**Psalm Prayer (We share the Verses) adapted from
Edward Hays**

O Divine Gift-giver,
I stand beneath the endless waterfall
of your abundant gifts to me.
I thank you especially for the blessing of life,
the most precious of all your gifts to me.

I thank you, Ever-generous One,
for calling me into a loving relationship with you.
For sowing within my heart the eternal seeds of faith,
hope, love and trust, the hallmark of my Baptism

I thank you for all the talents and skills
that you have bestowed upon me;
for the many joys of my life, for family and friends.

With joyful heart I thank you for my call to follow Jesus.
For planting me in the rich soil of our Catholic family
which nourishes my life and calls me to witness to others.

I thank you for the loving support and example of my
Parish Community,
for the mission entrusted to me which gives me a sense of purpose
and invests my life with meaning.

I thank you as well
for the sufferings and trials of my life which are also gifts
and which together with my mistakes
are among my most important teachers.

Grant that I may never greet a new day
without the awareness of some gift for which to give You thanks.

May constant thanksgiving
be my song of perpetual praise to You
bringing into my life the fruitfulness of love.
Glory be to the Father

We pause to Reflect and then share.
I express my thanksgiving for God's gifts in these ways...

Extract from TS Eliot: Choruses from the 'Rock'

Reader What life have you if you have not life together?
 There is no life that is not lived in Community,
 and no community not lived in praise of God.
 Even the anchorite who meditates alone,
 for whom the days and nights repeat the praise of God,
 prays for the church, the Body of Christ incarnate.

 Much to cast down, much to build, much to restore;
 Let the work not delay, time and arm not waste;
Let the clay be dug from the pit, let the saw cut the stone,
 Let the fire not quench in the forge.

All **We will build with new bricks,
 there are hands and machines,
 and clay for new bricks
 and lime for new mortar.
 Where the bricks are fallen,
 we will build with new stone.
 Where the beams are rotten,
 we will build with new timbers
 Where the word is unspoken,
 we will build with new speech.
 There is work together.
 A Church for all
 and a job for each.
 Everyman to his work.**

Reflection and sharing

I could use my gifts from God to build up our Parish Community in these ways...

I recognise that people use their gifts for our Parish Community in these ways.....



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