

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross – Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460

November 29, 2023



On the First Sunday of Advent, we light THE CANDLE OF HOPE. We have hope because God is ever faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our HOPE comes from God.

Our Lord's Continuing Passion

I often think of our neighbors
living in other world countries,
many of them malnourished
and barely making a living,
despite their hard labors.

These are all God's people,
living in today's modern world,
yet I see them living as in Bible times.
The Bible, in *Matthew 5*, v. 6, says,
"Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied."

Our Lord also said,
"What you do unto others,
that you do unto me."

Considering the violence and disrespect
we see in society today for others,
possibly our Lord's Passion
is continuing yet today,
in these sufferings of our sisters and brothers.

Oh, if only we would learn from our past,
correct the mistakes we have made,
perhaps the Lord will forgive us
and help us live in harmony at last.

—**Brother Jerome Kroetsch, CSC**



Holy Cross Village



Brother Joseph Fox, C.S.C., marvels at the colors the light through the windows of Saint Joseph spread across the chapel.



He updates the decorations of the chapel and areas of the village so that the community can experience the different secular and sacred periods of the year. At this writing he is working on Advent and Christmas displays.



Peru

Brother John Benesh, C.S.C., has enjoyed visiting with the world-wide congregational visitors from Holy Cross coming to his region for a meeting.



Here is Ken Haders (far right) in one of our 18 chapels of the parish we have here in San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, Peru.

This was taken on the Saturday before the beginning of the Council of the Congregation Meeting.

Brother John

Columba Hall Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving Meal Prayer

Lord God,

Our hearts are crowded with gratitude as we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving. We have come to this our feasting table with great joy and eagerness, for we are truly grateful to you, our God, for all that we have been given.

We also thank one another for gifts – especially for the gifts of love, affection, community, that we have freely shared. We are thankful for all who are present at this our feast as well as for all those who have labored in love in order to bring this dinner to our table.

May You, our God, bless this Thanksgiving feast and all of us who shall share it. Bless us O Lord.

**Hays, Edward, Prayers for the Domestic Church:
(Kansas: Forest of Peace Books, 1979), 122.)
Adapted by Brother Douglas Roach, C.S.C.**





Start of a New Exercise Class Columba Hall

Today, November 28, saw the start of an exercise class for our house.



Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

The Truth of the Matter

I am especially loved unconditionally by God. It seems that there is something in our nature (some call it the effects of original sin) that makes us cling on to the negative feelings about ourselves like Velcro and that the good things slide off our awareness like Teflon.

Part of our spiritual journey is to discover the “pearl of great price” within us. If we are living with a negative self-image because of many factors, we are ignoring that our good God made us in the image of the Christ and that God will guide us with God’s love and grace to come to the purpose for which we are created.

The truth of the matter is that we need to recognize the many lies we have been told by our culture and what has been passed on to us. It is when our spiritual grounding has revealed to us the truth of the matter that we can access the life of Christ within us. Then we will be able to shine through the darkness.

- Have you been able to identify that lie that you sometimes tell yourself?
- Can you describe how this lie takes hold in your life?
- Has your faith led you to the truth?

O God, help me continue to discover the image of the Christ within me.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



For more reflections to grow spiritually
please visit our new blog
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>



Sabbath

God initiated the observance of the Sabbath. Why? The Books of *Genesis* and *Exodus* of the Bible provide the answer:

“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them but on the seventh day he **rested**” (Gen. 2;.1).

“God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good” (Gen. 1;31).

“Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. On the seventh day God had completed the work he had been doing; he **rested** on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy” (Gen. 2: 2-3).

So, as God reminded the Israelites, “remember the Sabbath day – keep it holy” (Exodus 20:11).

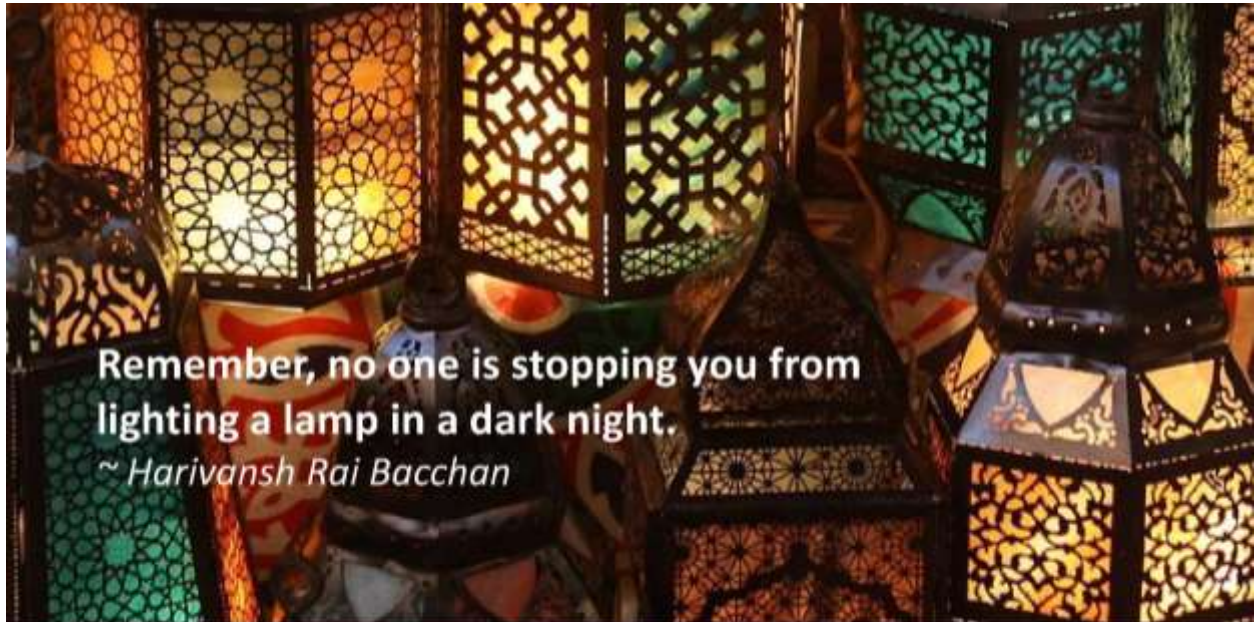
Holiness is revered, therefore somehow celebrated. The Sabbath is observed by **resting**, which has numerous forms or expressions. For example, humans may



briefly cease working at those nonessential pursuits whereby they maintain their ordinary routines of everyday living. It is a **rest** that finds time otherwise for communing with God, whereupon depends provision of all needs – a reminder of which we humbly need for more than one day.



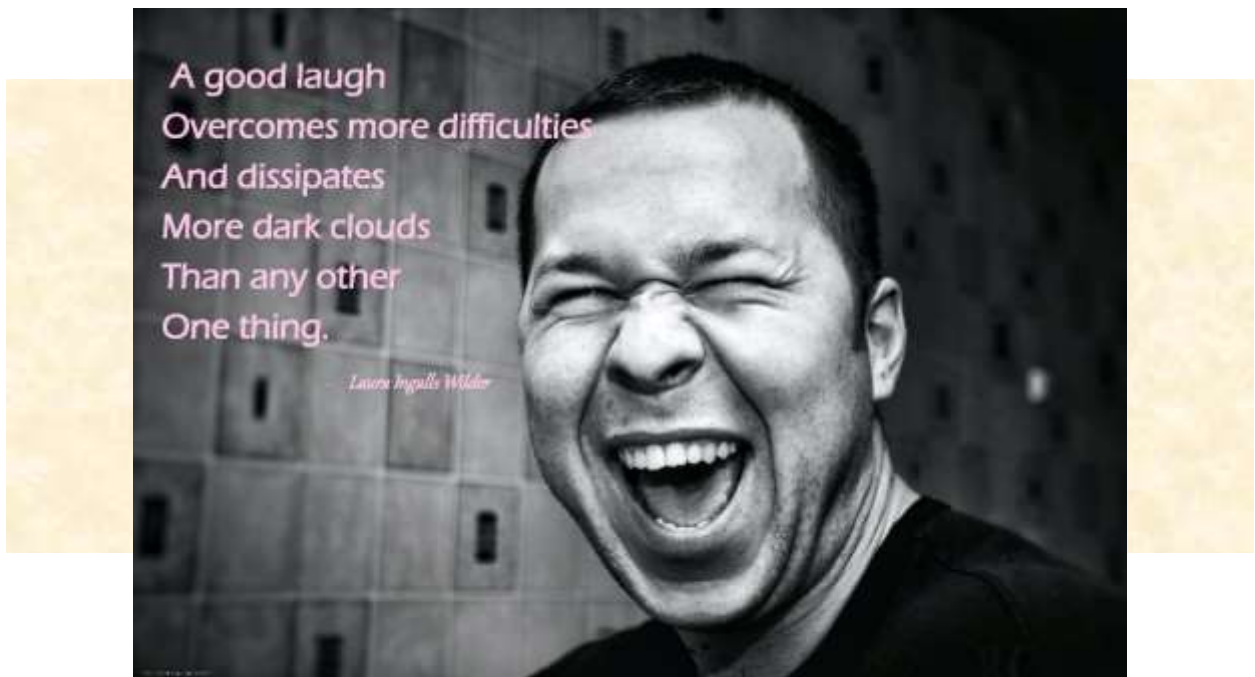
Reflection sent in by Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



Remember, no one is stopping you from lighting a lamp in a dark night.
~ Harivansh Rai Bacchan

This reflection is courtesy of Mission, Ethics & Spirituality + Providence Health Care
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada providencehealthcare.org

November 24, 2023



A good laugh
Overcomes more difficulties
And dissipates
More dark clouds
Than any other
One thing.

Laura Ingalls Wilder

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