

Reflection: June 2, 2021

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As I was reflecting on the Gospel of today and wondering what the Spirit was drawing me to speak about, I found myself drawn in a different direction than this particular section from the Gospel of Mark. So, if you will bear with me for these few minutes, I'd like to share with you a few thoughts about the time that we're in, not just chronologic time, but that deeper place that we call kairos time.

With the Feast of the Trinity, liturgically we slipped into what we know as Ordinary Time. Except for special occasions the color will be green. But there is nothing "ordinary" about it. It's not a time to sit back and relax and let things kind of roll.

Now is the season of discipleship – the season of making visible what it means to be a follower of the Christ – a beloved child of God – given the responsibility to help build the kin-dom – the beloved community.

There is something, however, quite unique about the beginning of **this** ordinary – discipleship time.

After over a very long year of living with the pandemic we begin ordinary time with signs that we are moving toward a new normal. What does that look like? I have often heard people say, "we can't go back and just be the same." "What have we learned?" "What will it look like?" How do I – how do we – go about making it different in our own lives and in the life of the community in which we live?

As I was reading Nancy Sylvester's most recent reflection in the *National Catholic Reporter*, I heard her offering me a way of going about this call: She titles it, "Like watering a poppy, small actions can make all the difference" and writes in part:

Perhaps like the women and men who followed Jesus those early years, the time we are living in is calling us to live more consciously, more aware of who we are as sons and daughters of a loving God. We are called to be that presence in whatever we do individually and communally.

Living with such an aliveness **makes everything** we do a portal connecting us to a growing conscious circle of humanity. ...

What we do is important, but how we do what we do and why we do it is even more important.

We are never acting alone. Each of us has a choice: Do we enhance life? Or do we harm life?

When the world's injustices begin to overwhelm, don't be paralyzed. Rather, recall that it was one coin that the woman searched for, it was one sheep that

the shepherd went to find, it was one measure of leaven added to the dough, it was one mustard seed sown in the field.

There will be times (perhaps) when we can participate at critical moments to address the structures of injustice. Most of the time, we will respond to the suffering of our world in ordinary yet remarkable ways with one kind word, one nonjudgmental thought, one offer to assist (another) one letter (or email or phone call) to an elected official, one acknowledgment of implicit bias.

The important thing is simply act. Do whatever you are doing conscious and aware that what you do makes a difference; life will flourish and the kin-dom of God will grow.

So, let's move into the extra-ordinariness of this ordinary time aware that we will be offered in ever so many ways opportunities in to make a difference – to make more visible that new normal that is our hope and our desire.