

June 20, 2022

Reflection

Betty Leon, IHM

After Celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday I was looking for the connection to it for this, the very next day.

Maybe today is a call from Christ to SEE His body in another dimension.

After all, isn't the Gospel about seeing differently?

So I'm wondering, what happens when we take the beam out?

The implication is that we need to get a *good look* at ourselves before we dare point the finger at another.

That clarity can be quite a challenge, even a shock, or a threshold.

During my last retreat, hoping for a day of some inspiration, I woke up stiff, sore, scattered, discouraged, and resisting meditation.

All I could manage was, "Lord, I'm a MESS."

I may as well just go on with a sign around my neck with that truth. It also felt like this fit nearly every system in our society and our world that is compromised or failing.

Yet, I sat for a while and as often happens, a question emerged:

"How does God relate to mess?"

Strangely, Genesis and the big bang came to mind.

Genesis says, the Spirit hovered over the *chaos*, a big mess.

Then Science tells us that, from the big bang until the chaos began to organize molecules and other "stuff" into planets and stars and galaxies, it was about one billion years! That's a long bit of hovering.

So, it seems that God doesn't have any *impatience* with messes, and maybe even *enjoys* that things are in process: *becoming* what they are to be.

Then another scripture came to mind.

It's the familiar passage, I Cor 12:12-+, about all of us being one body in Christ, joining our humanity to his. In part it says,

There are many different members, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you" any more than the head can say to the feet, "I do not need you."

Thinking of the body I woke up with, I imagined it going more like this:

Can the good arm say to the arthritic back or knees, I have no need of you.

Can the good eye say to the failing ear, I have no need of you. And so on.
You can make your own application.

Whatever the condition, those parts are still needed for the whole body.

Finally, an image comes from seeing houses or even whole neighborhoods having garage sales. If you've been to them, you probably noticed that there is a pile or a side table with the sign: AS IS.

That usually means an item is well used, needs some fixing up or a little tender care.

So, when we feel like we are a "mess", let's remember that *God has no problem with that...* and even *likes* the mess-in-process of becoming.

And seeing our "AS IS" sign, like a shrewd shopper,
God goes for the inner quality and says:
"What a bargain. I love it. I'll take it."
I think now, the sign I'll wear will be this one- AS IS.

Without the beam, I can see myself and I can see *you* in a different way.

We have an opportunity:

To *accept* one another, each with our unique history, personality, mental and physical abilities, quirks and brilliances-

and *do it* with awe, curiosity, a little TLC and humility.

That is, to take each one AS IS.

This is who we are to one another: fully accepted, fully belonging,
fully a member of the Body of Christ for this day and this time in history.

Can we be like our God, able to enjoy and even revel in the evolving mess?