

# HOLY LONGINGS

September Reflections

Volume 4, Issue 1, Sept. 2010

## Blessings

"When you hearken to the voice of the Lord, your God, all these blessings will come upon you and overwhelm you: May you be blessed in the city, and blessed in the country. Blessed be the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock, the issue of your herds and the young of your flocks! Blessed be your grain bin and your kneading bowl! May you be blessed in your coming in and blessed in your going out!" Deuteronomy 28:2-6

## Reflection

It's a basic human need to feel blessed, I believe. Along with adequate food, shelter, good health, security, education and love, each of us flourish knowing that we're respected and welcomed and that our life has meaning. We welcome companions on our journey of life who encourage us to be the best selves we can be.

James C. Fenhagen, in his book *Mutual Ministry*, says that faith for most people is best communicated by what goes on in the local setting rather than in doctrinal pronouncements. In sharing our faith with each other in the local setting of everyday life we become bathed in the assurance that we are blessed by God and by our companions.

A new blessing has come into my life as I've become acquainted with Mother of God House of Prayer. From the first day I spent in the beautiful setting I knew I was on holy ground and I felt blessed by the people I encountered, both in my coming in and my going out.

I pray that you will recognize the blessing of the House of Prayer in your life. I encourage you to take advantage of the numerous opportunities offered here to share your faith and life with others. I challenge all of us to seize and extend the blessings we receive to those we encounter in the local settings of our lives. As the blessings multiply and unfold, as more people feel respected and welcomed by us, our communities and our world will become healthier.

## Prayer

We encourage our readers to pray these words throughout this month: **Thank you, God, for my many blessings. May I be a blessing to you and to all I meet today.**

Written by Barbara Darling



A companion on the journey is a constant blessing.

**Discovering the Divine Spirituality Within Us**

Facilitated by Marilyn Bowman, Pastor Walter Fohs, and Sr. Carol Beevers

**Saturday, Sept. 18  
Retreat day**

**9:30 am-2:30 pm**

For more information or to register call (239) 728-3614



## **It's All in How You Look at Life...**

My wife thinks I'm weird because my favorite Winnie the Pooh character is Eeyore, but the sad truth is, I can easily identify with my old pal! It's easy for me to become the eternal pessimist and naysayer, walking around saying "It's not much of a tail, but I'm attached to it." It's way too easy to look at all of the problems, struggles, and issues that we encounter every day and just give in to the doomsday mentality of "Life stinks. Then you die".

I don't want to be like that. I want to be more like David and dance naked before the Lord! (I know, that is NOT a pretty picture!) David seemed to naturally have something that I work hard at keeping... *An Attitude of Gratitude*. Even when life was hard, he was able to put it out there before God, and leave it there. If you look at any of the Psalms of lament, they are filled with his heartfelt emotions.. his anger and frustration. He was brutally honest about how he felt, but he was always able to end by saying something like, "... But you are God. I know you are faithful and I really love you" (My paraphrase.) David was always grateful for the blessings and the struggles in life, because he knew that God was good. Paul tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances..." Paul knew what he was talking about. That is not only good theology, it's good advice! Those who live their lives with an Attitude of Gratitude are much healthier and experience the many, many joys that come along side the struggles.

As we enter the fall season, I would like to invite you to join me on the journey. I am trying to put my "inner-Eeyore" to rest and live life in a more "Pooh-like" way. I want to go through life believing that there is always more honey at the bottom of the pot. I want to dance naked before the Lord (but not before anyone else!). I want to become a perpetually thankful person and let God open my eyes to the many joys and wonders of His creation. Won't you join me?

Written by Bill Loy