

Dear Friends,

I am reading a book called, "Mystics in Action: Twelve Saints for Today (by Bruce G. Epperly). What it reminds me that people of great faith, courage, and walking with the Spirit is a part of this world as it was back in Biblical times. There were great struggles back then, cataclysmic BIBLICAL events, that left people wounded, homeless, and without hope. However, there was always a light at the end of the tunnel and the Spirit of God was working through people, the world, and became present to those in need. The vision of the lion laying down with the lamb and peace throughout the land is still unrealized, but in the end, it isn't death and destruction and a wasteland of Hell on Earth. There is always light in our world given by the sun, there is always life that is stretching out and growing, renewing the face of the earth, and cleaning the waters of life. That is being threatened right now, but it is not of God's will or God's purpose for the planet or humankind.

A few names you may know (a couple I didn't), Albert Schweitzer, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Simone Weil, Rufus Jones, Dag Hammarskjold, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Joshua Heschel, Mildred Lisette Norman, Thomas Merton, and Dorothy Day. Some of these were well known in their time for their faith and activism, and some, only after they died, was found their journals and other marks of their deep faith.

Who do you know that have seemed to found the peace that passes all understanding, who lives out a life that is in harmony with love and God, and who do you wish you could be a little more (or a lot) like them? What is also known is that each of them and others have had times of doubt, despair, and the absence of peace but continued on the best they could. What was discovered about Mother Theresa is that she went decades without knowing peace or joy.

Being a saint isn't about suffering, though being a saint doesn't protect us from suffering either. Being a mystic is one who seeks to find God in all people, in all places, and in all times. Bruce Epperly says we are all mystics because we all strive to encounter the ultimate in the universe.

Ester was told that maybe she was where she was at for 'such a time as this.' In these difficult days, may we find the way to engage the world that brings light, healing, and love, while working towards justice.

Peace,

Pastor Enno