

Sisters and Brothers, peace be with you.

Our Community Gathering - The coordinators are continuing to discern when our first face-to-face meeting will be. If you have recommendations or are willing to help enable it, please contact your Area Coordinator or reply to this email.

Safe Environment - We are making our annual safe environment training available online this year. Besides the alternative of training in your parish you can watch the course and complete the questionnaire on our safe environment page on our website using the Annual Recertification link in the Covenant Life section. More details are listed on that page.

Covenant Life - If you have not participated in an online event for your Area, please give it a try. If you need help connecting, please contact your Area Coordinator or reply to this email and we will arrange help.

Please reach out if you have any needs or just need someone to talk to. We encourage every member to share whatever Spiritual Gifts you receive with one the Coordinators. Please reach out to your Area coordinator or me if you have unmet needs that your covenant sisters and brothers can help with. Please donate online at www.GodsDelight.org or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222 as we are dependent on your generosity for our ongoing financial needs.

Reflection - Today is the feast of St. Francis, as a secular Franciscan my prayer for all of us is that we adopt his attitude of humility and fascination with God who loves us though all of creation.

Some time ago Joe Walsh recommended a book by Roland and Heidi Baker titled *Reckless Devotion* which I enjoyed as a devotion for a year, but I have to admit I struggled with the word *reckless*. Reflecting on the Gospel today, there does not seem to be a better word to describe the actions of the landowner who decided to send his Son. This seems a fitting way to describe how much God truly loves each one of us that He would send His Son to free us from our bondage to sin and open for us the doors of eternal life...reckless love!

This is a critical truth to hold on to during these challenging times. God loves us that much. The early disciples provided strong words of encouragement to look beyond our present circumstances to God and His peace. In the second reading we hear the words: *"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."* (Phil 4:6-7)

Have no anxiety at all. Thinking about all the trials that Paul endured, he must have been speaking these words to himself as much as to the Philippians. Similarly, we can speak and pray these words to build our confident assurance. One way is through praying the surrender novena *"O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything"*. I am also reminded of a saying from a priest in Houston: *"Life is not a problem to be solved but a mystery to be lived as gracefully, graciously, and gratefully, as we can."* And finally, I recall the words of 1 Peter 5: 7 *"Cast all your worries upon Him because He cares for you."*

My encouragement for us this week is to stand in the confident assurance of God's reckless, bountiful, limitless love and cast all worries upon Him. If we find ourselves struggling, let's agree to pray Psalm 91 immediately.

Let us end in prayer: *"God, my father, I truly love You and stand on the promise of Your unconditional love for me. O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything. Holy Spirit, empower me with the strength to cast all my worries upon You and with Your grace to live each day as your child, spreading Your love to everyone I encounter. Amen"*

God bless,
David