

A Mid-day Meditation

From

Sue's Perspective

*"Let your light so shine before others
That they may see your good works
And glorify your Father in Heaven."*

- *Holy Baptism; Book of Alternative Services – p. 160*

In the days when I was in full-time ministry – a.k.a. not retired – one of my greatest joys was celebrating Holy Baptism. Having a family come to me and ask to have their child baptized filled my heart. Having a friend, new to the church and Christianity come to me and ask for the sacrament of baptism filled my heart. Having the daughter of a close friend come and ask to be baptized filled my heart. Without a doubt, my heart was filled with joy time and time again. After the initial request for baptism, either the parents of the child or the candidates themselves would spend time with me learning – or in some cases relearning what it means to be baptized into the household of God. Believe me, some of the conversations were quite lively which meant to me that the people were engaged in the process. I especially liked talking about letting their lights shine. For every person with whom I had the conversation, there was another understanding of what it meant for their light to shine. The bottom line is each came away with an understanding that the light of Jesus present in them after their baptism should be visible to others in the world...

"Let your light so shine before others..."

Nowhere does it say that any of us should point out our good works. The works that we do because of the light of Christ in our lives should speak for themselves. In the gospel it says, "don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Matthew 6:3). In other words, do what you are called to do without any fanfare or acknowledgement. If someone sees that the work is done by you and they remark on it, a simple "thank you" or "you're welcome" will do. What you are doing is the work of Christ and it is the light of Christ in you that shows others what has been done...

"That they may see your good works ..."

Usually when we see that something good has been done in the world, we glorify the person or persons who have done the work. We tend to forget that God has been generous to those people in order for them to do what it is that they are able to do. When we see an act of generosity, love, good will, charity, whatever you want to call it, we should first give thanks to God. More importantly, **we** should give thanks to God for the works that **we** are able to do. When all is said and done, what we do in the world for others is to the glory of God. It's as simple as that...

"...And glorify your Father in Heaven."

And a prayer for Canada Day...

Almighty God,
whose wisdom and whose love are over all,
accept the prayers we offer for our nation.
Give integrity to its citizens
and wisdom to those in authority,
that harmony and justice may be secured
in obedience to your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

- Book of Alternative Services – p. 413

Happy Canada Day!!