

September 11, 2001 – Reflections

Peace Card for Wednesday

Today is September 11th. It is an important day not to remember because of some petty terrorists who were filled with hatred – but a day to remember that the world stopped for a moment and embraced one another. A day of tears – but also a day of love. Where sin abounds grace abounds all the more.

The year I entered the monastery we had a big volcano eruption in our state. The whole mountain (St. Helen's) blew up and our world was one gray expanse of nothingness. Every flower, twig and blade of grass was coated in gray. The sky was gray; even the water was covered with a film of gray. When I opened the door in the morning to let in my black cat, he was gray. It felt like the end of the world had come and left.

Yet now, 21 years later – though we still find ash when the wind blows – that eruption produced bigger and better crops than we had ever had. Washington State never had much of a grape crop, but now we produce some of the best wines in the world, because with the ash the grapes sprung into wonderful growth. I think this will also happen to our nation in the years to come. It won't be overnight – but in a few years we will see the gifts that God has released through these days of darkness. That is the power of our God – and with faith we can look to the future with hope and confidence. Satan does his worst – but it is never a final victory. He didn't win on Calvary, and he hasn't won on September 11th!

Blessings of Peace,

Sister Patricia and all the Sisters

Reflection September 11 – A reflection on today's Sacred Scripture from the Liturgy of the Word: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Psalm 45:11-17; Luke 6:20-26

How significant on this first anniversary of the infamous terrorist attack on America that the first reading from 1st Thessalonians should remind us that the world as we know it is passing away! What a traumatic object lesson God has allowed to wake us all up to the fact that our lives hang from a frail thread. We know not the day or the hour!

On a sundial in an old English garden are engraved the words: "It is later than you think!" But, thank God, there is still time – time to return to the basics of the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Great Commandment of love of God and love of neighbor. Jesus has told us that fear is useless – what is needed is Hope. May we all observe this anniversary day in the spirit of Hope, a new humility, a new commitment, throwing ourselves in faith on a merciful God who still gives us time!

Msgr. Paul Whitmore (smartins@twcny.rr.com)

I truly believe this is how we should live each day that we are blessed with. Just wanted to share this with the many people who have brought happiness to my life. Have a wonderful day. This hasn't been broken since September 11; please keep it going... this poem has been kept alive and moving since that time. In memory of all those who perished this morning; the passengers and the pilot on the United Air and AA flights, the workers in the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, and all the innocent bystanders. Our prayers go out to the friends and families of the deceased...

IF I KNEW

*If I knew it would be the last time
That I'd see you fall asleep
I would tuck you in more tightly
And pray the Lord, your soul to keep.
If I knew it would be the last time
That I see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss
And call you back for one more.
If I knew it would be the last time
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would video tape each action and word
So I could play them back day after day.
If I knew it would be the last time
I could spare an extra minute,
To stop and say "I LOVE YOU"
Instead of assuming
You would know I do.
If I knew it would be the last time
I would be there to share your day,
Well I'm sure you'll have so many more,
So I can let just this one slip away.
For surely there's always tomorrow
To make up for an oversight,
And we always get a second chance
To make everything just right.
There will always be another day
To say "I love you",*

*And certainly there's another chance
To say our "anything I can do?"
But just in case I might be wrong
And today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you
And I hope we never forget.
Tomorrow is not promised to anyone,
Young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance
You get to hold your loved one tight.
So if you're waiting for tomorrow,
Why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes,
You'll surely regret the day.
That you didn't take extra time
For a smile, a hug, or a kiss
And you were too busy to grant someone,
What turned out to be their one last wish.
So hold your loved ones close today
And whisper in their ear,
Tell them how much you love them
And that you'll always hold them dear.
Take time to say "I'm sorry,"
"Please forgive me," "Thank you,"
Or "It's OK"
And if tomorrow never comes,
You'll have no regrets about today.*

Please share this and pass it around.