



Our Lady of Lourdes
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Christmas 2016

“IN PEACE, I WILL BOTH LIE DOWN AND SLEEP; FOR THOU ALONE,
O LORD, MAKEST ME DWELL IN SAFETY.” (PSALM 4:8)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christmas comes with alerts and reminders. And, after days and weeks of preparing the house and way of the Lord, we may be tempted to stay up as late as possible. However, do we not also value a good night's rest? A proper retreat helps us to continue the journey.

We retire and rest so that we can receive Christmas gifts and blessings. At least, this is what we tell children about the rules and regulations of the 24th. Do we profess the same faith?

In the Gospel, the shepherds were awake to the Messiah, having taken turns keeping watch. They were well rested and ready for the Messiah, physically and spiritually. Wakefulness was their shared endeavor and continues to be ours.

The gifts of your prayer, your time and financial support help us in our mission, to tell it both on the mountain and at our Eagle Rock Avenue base camp every day. You bring gifts which others may not connect to you personally. You leave behind blessings of which you yourselves may be unaware.

I am grateful to you - our parishioners, visitors, and friends - and to our parish staff, to our volunteers, and our societies through whom we rise and meet the needs of many in faith, hope, and charity. Our parish staff ensures the maintenance of all our records, including finances and registrations, and the sustainability of our busy social and spiritual calendar. We are blessed by their dedication and work ethic and their promptness in service on the phone, in person, and in all our messaging and publicity.

Our societies and volunteers work very capably as both teams and individuals. This spirit is a sign of the great love within - and for - our parish family.

Vigilance and kindness make Lourdes a place of stability and rest for many in our community. Our staff, volunteers, and societies are attentive to responsibilities in our parish, morning, noon, and night. I am grateful for the words they speak, the song they sing, and the spirit they bring both in and out of church.

Thank you to all of you for your kindness and generosity to Our Lady of Lourdes this Christmas and always, to all of our priests, and to me.

Please enjoy the prayerful insights of Mother Teresa of Calcutta on the reverse side of this letter.

May God bless you and yours with His peace and rest,

Father Jim Ferry, Pastor

The “Anyway” Prayer of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Canonized by Pope Francis on 4 September 2016, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, was known for her own effort to rest and hear God’s voice and to do so in community and communion with her sisters, in the Missionaries of Charity, and with many who would otherwise be abandoned. This was found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. *Forgive them anyway.*

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. *Be kind anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. *Succeed anyway.*

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. *Be honest and sincere anyway.*

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. *Create anyway.*

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. *Be happy anyway.*

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. *Do good anyway.*

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. *Give your best anyway.*

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.



“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.”

(JOHN 3:16)