

## A Time For Giving Thanks

I love music and I love to sing and I especially like to sing in church. I am not a great singer but I try my best to blend in with the rest of the congregation. My favorite part in the Mass is the Responsorial Psalm and my most significant response is “ Be with me Lord when I am in trouble”. I love the music but not the words. So I change the words to say “ Be with me Lord for I need you always”.

I believe, as I am sure most of you do, that we need Him with us not only in the bad times but in the good times as well. He never leaves us but, sometimes, when things are going well, we forget that He is there and we neglect to share the good things with Him and we forget to thank Him for these times. Perhaps in our humanity, we tend to take the credit for the good and only turn to Him when things are difficult or when we feel that we are not in control. The truth of the matter is that we are not in control.

All that we are and all that we have- even the very air that we breathe, we receive from God. His love is with us always and all He asks is that we love Him in return.

We believe that He is always with us but do we sometimes forget to thank Him for being by our side especially when we are responding to His call to serve His poor? Do we remember to thank Him for the gift of being His hands, His heart and His voice when we make a home visit? How many times have we been lacking the resources we need to serve His poor and suddenly He finds a way to supply those resources ? How many times have you found yourself in a situation where you were needed and know that you were led by Him ? I know that sometimes we feel that the work we are called to do is overwhelming and we don't know if we can carry on and then we find the strength to make that next visit pack that next food hamper or sit and listen to a lonely neighbor. That strength comes from Him and it is with gratitude that we carry on.

There is so much need in our country and indeed in our world. There is so much poverty-of both body and spirit. We cannot eliminate it all but we try our best to help whenever and wherever we can. As Christians we need to remember to always be thankful for what He gives us but next weekend when we sit down for dinner on Thanksgiving day, we need to say a special thanks to Him for we are blessed and loved by Him.

A number of years ago, my partner and I were visiting His poor and we went to see a lady that we had known for a very long time. She had suffered a great deal over the years- loss of a husband- children in trouble with the law and on drugs, sickness and depression. She had a grandchild who lived with her and she loved him dearly. This day we were bringing her a food voucher for a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. After telling us about her current difficulties she commented that the Thanksgiving holiday meant nothing to her as she had absolutely to be thankful for. I silently asked Him to find an answer for her and then suddenly her little grandchild came running out and she said-no what I said was not quite true. I can be thankful for my grandchild. I am so grateful that He answered my plea.

This Thanksgiving Day let us all make a special effort to thank Him for the many blessings that we have received from Him. In our Society of St Vincent de Paul we can be grateful for the help He gives us to carry out His work of service to His poor but we can also be grateful that we have one another in our Vincentian family that we can lean on.

May God bless all your family and friends this Thanksgiving

Maureen Maclsaac, Chairperson  
Spirituality Committee

