

Folio Forty-Three

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A Humanity, Wondrously Transformed ¹

Like anyone's ... my sufferings
In emptying into Christ's Calvary cup, in daily Eucharist,
– Become the Wondrous Cup of His Covenant of Love,
– Able to quench, beyond my knowing or enabling,
All my brothers' and sisters' THIRST,
Within Abba's Banquet of Paschal Love !
This Elixir of the Spirit brightens their faces with joy,
And settles Easter Peace
Deep within receptive hearts .

O Abba, lead us ever so compassionately,
To imitate Your crucified Beloved
Whom You so fondly ACCOMPANIED
Through all His suffering and death.
Just as lovingly,
Re-configure us to His resurrected humanity,
And draw us, within Him,
Into Your waiting, open heart
– As a humanity, wondrously transformed
... The home of Limitless Life !
And of unbounded possibilities !
O Father of Tenderness, enfold our New Humanity,
Risen and Ascended, in Jesus !

Feeling the Heartbeat of God ¹

To be the son, the daughter

Abba wants-us-to-be,

We need to EXPERIENCE –

*... The heart of the WIDOW, giving of her necessity
–impoverishing her present, for a future – reliant on God.*

*... The heart of ZACCHEUS, excitedly inviting Jesus home
–so that the glimpse from the tree ... becomes table fellowship !*

*... The heart of JUDAS, within our selfish spirit,
–when, like him, we smother the Gift of God,
–when, unlike him, we need to TRUST in forgiveness.*

*... The heart of the CHILD, climbing into Jesus' embrace,
–with her cheek on His chest, feeling the heartbeat of God !*

*... The heart of LAZARUS with burial linens unwrapped,
–gazing into the eyes of his friend, his 'goel', his God ! ²*

*... The heart of PETER, trading the lure of the familiar,
–for an Easter conversion, on Galilee's shore !*

*... The heart of MARY, aching at the foot of the Cross,
–trembling as she offers her Son back to Abba,
–yet surging ... surging with joy, on Easter morning!*

1 Poem 841, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community, June 2007.

2 The Old Testament usage, 'goel' means 'rescuer' or 'redeemer' .

Equality and Democracy ¹

*Historically, or in specific personal terms,
Where there is no ownership of equality in relationships,
Or of democracy in social groupings,
Then, by choosing not to tolerate limits on one's freedom,
And by choosing to promote one's individual efforts and merits,
The reward sought for, is the positioning of oneself
Securely within the various hierarchies
Of power, wealth and privilege –
– Ensuring that inequalities and undemocratic practices persist !*

*Contrarivise,
By espousing equality between persons, democracy within groups,
We freely PROMOTE and CONSOLIDATE them
Universally and unconditionally.
Thus, we 'naturally' work to ensure that ALL change, ALL growth,
ENHANCES BOTH –
COMMUNITY living as a necessary core human value,
And the inalienable dignity of each PERSON .*

Reflecting Who God Is ¹

Only God can IMAGE, EXPERIENCE and DESIRE God.

All others can do so only, in God, through grace !

Jesus Ascended

Alive now, IN OUR FLESH,

Is

–Abba’s IMAGE ... alive with His radiant Eternal Loveliness !

–The living, perfect expression of Abba’s CONSCIOUSNESS !

–And Abba’s LIMITLESS DESIRE ... to pour Himself out in love !

In Jesus Ascended,

We too

–ALIVE WITH HIS SPIRIT –

REFLECT ... Abba’s own luminous goodness,

Through a loving Eucharistic personality !

ECHO ... Abba’s created Paschal inclusiveness

–In a welcome that transforms and gathers together !

RESPOND ... To Abba’s invitations to tender intimacy, and to Fellowship,

By surrendering ourselves to loving others, no matter what !

... So that,

All who are, IN Christ –

RADIATE ... The truly selfless quality of sacrificial love !

RECIPROCATATE ... By being poor in spirit, by befriending enemies,

By being gathered and transformed together !

RESOUND ... With the joy of loving Abba FACE TO FACE in Christ !

With the exhilaration of COMMUNING IN FELLOWSHIP !

Light in the Darkness ¹

INSPIRATIONS

“I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me, won't walk in darkness,

But will have the LIGHT OF LIFE !” (Jn 8:12)

“People who live by the truth,

Come INTO the light

—So that it may be plainly seen

That what they do, IS DONE IN GOD !” (Jn 2:21)

For us human beings :

Light, of itself, will always exist.

Darkness, of itself, does not exist.

Light's centre is within itself.

Darkness has no centre.

Light's centre is light.

One is lost, in any darkness.

Light is never conditioned by darkness.

Darkness happens, if light is removed.

Light disappears only when BLOCKED ...

Darkness disappears when light appears ...

As when our will closes out Christ's Light.

We see anew, as our will opens to Christ's Light.

Christ's light is a LIFE-SOURCE for humanity.

Evil is the death of this LIFE-SOURCE within.

The Christ-Light is outgoing ... revealing itself.

Evil is intensive: seeking ... disguising itself

We truly RELATE, to the Christ-Light's presence.

We CANNOT relate to ITS absence.

We can actively FOLLOW Christ's Light.

We STAY INACTIVE in evil's darkness, disoriented.

We can DELIGHT IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, We have to ENDURE EVIL'S DARKNESS,

Because it is enabling, and inclusive: -

Because it is alienating and exclusive :-

Centering our person

Disorienting us, by selfishness

Centering our friendships

Disorienting us, by individualism

Centering our community

Disorienting us, by factional self-interests

Centering us as a people

Disorienting us, by inequalities

Centering our Church

Disorienting us, by infighting and legalism

Centering humanity.

Disorienting us, by greed, lust, and pride.

LIGHT is experienced ...

DARKNESS is endured ...

intellectually as truthfulness

intellectually as deceptiveness

affectively as goodness

affectively as badness or evil

spiritually as luminous grace

spiritually as human striving alone

personally as our Indwelling God

personally as egocentricity

interpersonally as Divine Fellowship within

interpersonally as dissension

Light's PURPOSE is to delight ...

Darkness as evil, has NO purpose :

To uplift and give life a focus.

It is irrational and irrelevant.

The fruit of Light is LUMINOUS COMMUNION.

Evil's fruit is rampant individualism,

Distrust, deceit and division.

Thus, to be-hold the Light,

To face darkness, is to be lost,

Is to enter this Communion

Disoriented, in stark isolation.

*Thus, for us human beings,
In this era of the Holy Spirit,
There is always A CHOICE between Light and darkness.
Thus, personal spiritual darkness descends on us through choosing it FREELY
–Even if this overlaid, and complexed by seemingly impersonal forces.
This freedom REMAINS SMOTHERED in the heart of those who choose darkness.
Wherever there is freedom, Christ’s saving love is there too ...
To awaken freedom, at those times,
When suffering lowers people’s defences
–Allowing in a glimmer of Christ-light
To shine in the darkness
... Prompting us, perhaps, to re-choose Light
And Life !*

Our Co-experience of Christ ¹

PREAMBLE :

A dream unfolded in my night's odyssey ...
As to how I was to affirm, and to focus
OTHER people's aspirations for humanity's future
... As they envisioned them in their hearts.
Their selfless visions were ...
Of health-motivated, balanced lifestyles,
Of lives, dovetailed into ecological partnerships,
Of heartfelt strategies for communal caring,
Of a world, war-free, and pooling its resources,
Of leadership, ennobled by graced consensus ...

Then, after many "dream-days" passed ... the question emerged :

"Tom, what's your own vision ?

Prompted by the Spirit, I replied ...

"Our future, TOGETHER,

Needs to be based on a radical FAITH,

A FAITH –

Wherein Christ IDENTIFIES Himself AS US !

And we IDENTIFY ourselves AS CHRIST !

– Such that our call is CO-IDENTIFY with Christ !

–To CO-EXPERIENCE His consciousness !

–And to CO-EXPERIENCE HIS DESTINY !

... OURS, now, being an experience of grace, and of a clouded vision,

... HIS, an eternalized experience of Paschal Glory, of Divine clarity !

Held within the heart of the Ascended Jesus ...

The reality of our CO-IDENTITY

The reality of our CO-CONSCIOUSNESS

The reality of our CO-DESTINY

Is as REAL as the breath we breathe ...

As real

As Christ's Breathing in, and Breathing out,

Of His Paschal Spirit

... Divinizing the beating of our human hearts

To become ONE with His !

Thus, in Christ's world ...

That is, in His very PERSON,

The Divine Spirit-Breath

Seeks to bring our spirits

Into harmony

With BOTH Abba and Jesus Ascended,

Who draw us into Their loving ENRAPTURE

And breathe US forth, in Their Spirit

... Into the graced freedom

Of being TOGETHER IN CHRIST !

Visualize Your Future, IN Christ ¹

To attract, to realize, what you DESIRE :
GIVE THANKS, in Christ, for what you have, already !
ENJOY FEELING GOOD NOW, in Christ, as if your desires are fulfilled !
LET YOU BODY LANGUAGE express this fulfilment, now !
SEE YOURSELF, as living now, in Christ, what you desire !

Indeed, our hearts are made to experience joy
– Surpassingly ... Easter joy !
So, always call to mind, and visualize ...
How, it is out of the Cross, that Easter joy arises
– Because, our ascendant humanity, is UPLIFTED
Into the Embrace of God's Joy !
Thus, Bliss is God's Gift, and when we are receptive,
The universe will open this GIFT
For us, IN Christ !

And imprint on your consciousness –
That Bliss is never ours to experience alone !
So, this very day ...
Affirm people who DESIRE good outcomes for others !
Affirm them of OUR joyful future together, IN Christ !
... Recalling to their minds, that joys shared together,
Reflect the boundless joy of the Trinity's COMMUNING together !

Nothing Else Matters ¹

Jesus,

Here ! On this Cross – ²

Your love is All !

Nothing else matters !

Abba's love for You

Is the only measure of Your own depthless love !

On this Cross, Jesus,

Where Your "Abba, I have loved them, as much as You loved me" ³

... Is FULLY REVEALED ...

I feel wholly enveloped by Abba's, and thus, Your Love !

This love is the only REALITY for me !

Because, Jesus, You and we

Share a humanity, love-lit within, by Abba's Love,

All of our past, all of our imaginable futures,

Vanish into irrelevance

... In Abba's Loving Presence

– As IT is wholly revealed through Your Loving Presence ON THE CROSS !

Nothing else matters !

O *Abba*,

Here ! In a body, taut with longing

–Hopefully IN Christ –

I entrust myself to You

... With every cell of my being.

Yes, Abba !

Your Spirit is at work in us ... whispering the tough truth,

'Love needs to suffer, to give birth to love' .

Let, then, Your Spirit enter into every agony,

Into my smallest discomfort,

And thereby SAVE some of my brothers and sisters

... Through Christ's suffering, in me !

Spirit, transform US TOGETHER :

Grace us, to offer up, whatever suffering comes our way.

Thus, bound to this Cross, IN Christ,

Bound by love, like Him,

I hope that both You, Abba,

And Your Spirit, who transforms all suffering,

ACCOMPANY all hurting, God-seeking hearts

Through all they suffer, and through death.

Now Abba !

In a humbled humanity, spreadeagled on this Cross,

– As with Your Beloved –

We search for Your Face.

Most commonly, it is through Eucharist, IN Him,

That we can gaze into Your eyes

... To summon us !

... To free us !

... To en-Spirit us !

Now Abba !

Again, in the Eucharistic Jesus,

Your Easter Dawn's own Luminous Love

... Enlivens our being !

... Vitalizes our spirits !

... Freeing us for Adoption !

Now Abba !

In Jesus' noontime Ascension, Your Fatherly heart

Ever draws us into Your Embrace of Your Beloved,

As you engage our humanity in an Eternal Exchange :

Love gaining a Son, who is 'Many',

And we, the 'Many', AS SON, gaining a Father !

O Abba ! The excess of Your enabling delight

Bonds us all-as-one in Your Embrace

... As Your Spirit comes ALIVE in us !

Now Abba !

In Easter's golden twilight

LET Your Spirit flow freely,

FLOW AS LIGHT FLOWS

– Through the arteries of Christ's, and our, humanity :

Radiating joy, out-loving hate

... Indwelling friends, befriending enemies !

In thus holding humanity's polarities TOGETHER,

Jesus, the Beloved CHILD, of a universe uplifted,

In His Paschal simplicity ... IS at once :

The Many, within the One !

The old, become the New !

Divinely human !

Humanly Divine !

Now Abba !

In Your Eternal Embrace of Your Risen Beloved,

Your Love is "All in All"! ⁴

Love giving birth to Love !

1 Poem 847, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, July 2007.

2 'This' cross was a most anxious time for me.

3 Jn 17:23

4 1 Cor 15:28

A Church, Consumed by Love ¹

WHATEVER the Church does, is done in us :

WHATEVER we do, is done in the Church.

Thus, Christian hearts – ²

Weep, for the pain inflicted on Love,

Cry with the pain of your Church :

Heartfelt penitents, forgiving victims, UNITE !

Let your eyes ... linger here, on the Face of Love

... Hearts open, with the openness of your Church ...

Homecoming prodigals, EMBRACED.

Hold ...hold gently, the faithful hand of Love,

Trust, with the trust of your Church :

Child's hand, within a Father's, HELD.

Breathe in, breathe deeply the Spirit of Love,

–Love, with the heart of your Church

... Begetting Love's Child in others, NURTURING.

Blaze, burn passionately with the Fire of Love,

Aflame with the zeal of your Church

–Consumed by Love ... TRANSFORMED !

Breathe forth, breathe forth the Spirit of Love,

Hearts resonating with the compassion of your Church :

All, through Eucharistic self-sacrifice – REVITALIZED !

Shine, shine forth the Joy of Love !

Rejoice with the alleluias of your Church

–Within the Fellowship of Peace ... COMMUNING.

1 Poem 848, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, August 2007.

2 'This poem encapsulates what I sense is my ministry'. Author.

Eucharist : A Mount Tabor Experience ¹

*The Transformation of Jesus on Love's Mountain
Reveals the INNER REALITY of His Eucharistic Prayer
Acted out on Calvary and on Easter Day ...*

*Like His awe-struck apostles,
Jesus, within Eucharist, "LEADS US ... up the Mountain to pray" ²
... THERE, be Enraptured, in Abba's loving company.
For us, Abba's Mysterious Eucharistic Presence
Is like the 'prodigal' Father, eager to embrace us
To envelop us, to draw us close
... Within Abba's own Tent of Intimacy : the Person of Jesus.
So Eucharist becomes, as on Mount Tabor,
Abba's "CLOUD" OF LOVE, ³
Enfolding our spirits,
Modelling our Divine likeness, on Jesus, "the Beloved"! ⁴*

*In this THEOPHANY ...
While the Spirit is SENSED
"In the aspect of Jesus' changing face",
As well as in "His clothing becoming as brilliant as lightning", ⁵
And while the Father, "the Sublime Glory itself, SPEAKS" to us ⁶
... The central focus of everyone's delight, in Eucharist, as on Mount Tabor,
Is Abba's "My Son, the Beloved !" ⁷*

Thus, in any Eucharistic ENCOUNTER,

Our mission is –

... *“To go INTO the Cloud”, “where we see Jesus’ Glory”,* ^{8,9}

... *To “LISTEN to Him” there,* ¹⁰

... *To join Him in His Resurrected ‘Yes!’ to Abba,*

And in His Ascensional “Amen!” to Abba’s Embrace.

What a wondrous privilege!

As the FRUIT of this Eucharistic Communing,

Wherein Jesus “comes and TOUCHES us” – ¹¹

Our daily graced DELIGHT

... *Is to pray “It is wonderful for us to be here!”* ¹²

... *To “see Your majesty for ourselves!”* ¹³

It is also our joy

... *“To speak of His Rising,” like the Apostles, “among ourselves”,* ¹⁴

And “To tell no one ... until the Son of Man has risen” ¹⁵

... *IN OUR OWN HEARTS!*

In this way, Jesus’ luminous goodness transfigures us also,

Uplifting our spirits, Eucharistically

So that, like Jesus on Tabor,

We are “honoured and glorified by God the Father” ¹⁶

As WITNESSES to His Son!

1 Poem 849, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Transfiguration – August 6, 2007.

2 Lk 9:28

3 Mt 17:5

4 IBID

5 Lk 9:29

6 2Pet 1:17

7 Mk 9:8

8 Lk 9:34

9 Cf Jn 1:14

10 Lk 9:35

11 Mt 17:7

12 Mt 17:4

13 2Pet 1:17

14 Mk 9:10

15 Mt 17:9

16 2 Pet 1:16.

From Servants, to Friends, to Brothers ¹

The Easter Christ's

Ten simple men ²

Who, having begun as co-servants of Yahweh with Him,

Had, by the time of their Last Supper together,

Undergone a transformation, in intimacy –

FROM ... "If a man serves me, he must follow me", ³

AND ... "I no LONGER call you SERVANTS", ⁴

To ... "I call you, FRIENDS". ⁵

Yet, by Easter Morn

This wonderful relationship is again changed

... Deepening their intimacy immeasurably,

Because, as Saint Paul proclaims.

"For those who have died, IN Jesus,

God will bring them WITH HIM." ⁶

Raised with Christ,

They are ADOPTED INTO THE SAME RELATIONSHIP

That He Himself enjoys with Abba

– 'BELOVED CHILD OF ABBA!'

They, AS WE, become brothers and sisters to Jesus Ascended,

And to each other!

By Easter noontime, as the Ascending One,

Jesus SEALS this new relationship,

As He indicates to Mary Magdelene ...

“Go, tell MY BROTHERS !

I am ascending

To my Father, and YOUR Father,

To my God, and YOUR God.”⁷

“We” now, are Christ’s new brothers, new sisters.

Our new relationship, our new dignity,

Is SPECIFICALLY SEALED

By the Gift of the Spirit

“PROMISED” to Jesus.⁸

His receiving of the Spirit

BECOMES OURS ALSO

As signified that Easter Evening

In Jesus Ascended’s

GIVING OF THE SPIRIT⁹

To “the disciples” in the Supper Room.¹⁰

And wonder of wonders !

It is the receiving of this SPIRIT who is “PEACE”¹¹

– “BREATHED” into them, us, by Jesus Ascended –¹²

That draws them, us, IN Christ,

Into the wondrous ETERNAL FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE

With Abba and the Spirit of Peace !¹³

*And indeed, Jesus draws them, us,
NOT as many, discrete individuals ...
But He EN-PERSONS all together, in Himself
... Now as His “brothers” and sisters ...* ¹⁴

Co-experiencing

His IDENTITY ! His CONSCIOUSNESS ! His DESTINY ! ¹⁵

It is now ALSO us, whom Abba embraces as “Beloved”!

It is ALSO us, whom Abba kisses, full on the lips

... With the SPIRIT-KISS !

Significantly, it is ALSO us who surrender our whole NEW REALITY

Back to Abba

... Having it sealed, with the same SPIRIT-KISS !

Thus, as well as RECEIVING the Spirit,

Christ’s GIVING of the Spirit becomes OURS ALSO

... Signified in the period following Pentecost

– Still continuing –

When Christ’s brothers and sisters bestow the Spirit

On those whom Abba chooses !

1 Poem 850, Marian Valley, monthly Retreat, Assumption – August 15,2007.

2 “Ten”, became Thomas and Judas were not with them.

3 Jn 12: 26 4 Jn 15:15a 5 Jn 15: 15b 6 1 Thess 4:14 7 Jn 20:17

8 Lk 24:49, Acts 2:33 9 Jn 20:22 10 Jn 20:19 Was Mary with them ?

11 Jn 20:21 12 Jn 20:22 13 Cf Jn 20:21, 23 14 Jn 20:17 15 See Poem 845.

A Communion of Calls ¹

*Our Call, always to be CHRIST TO OTHERS,
Is but one of the Spirit's COMMUNION OF CALLS
... With our call, always to be CHRIST TO THE FATHER,
... And our call, always to be CHRIST TO ONESELF, AND OTHERS,
All coming together to integrate our whole life, in the Spirit.*

*Imitating the unfolding of Jesus' own spirit-story
– And only through the sheer gift of Grace –
Our first call is to CO-EXPERIENCE
Jesus' evolving RELATIONSHIP TO HIS ABBA :
Wherein, with growing and heartfelt receptivity,
WE treasure being Abba's Beloved,
And thus, WE faithfully reflect
Abba's own loving-kindness BACK to HIM ...
For, as Son, we "ALWAYS do
What we see the Father doing" ²
– Always loving, as we are loved !*

*Our second call is to CO-EXPERIENCE
OUR VERY SELVES WITH CHRIST :
Wherein Jesus Risen's consciousness ACCOMPANIES our own
... Tenderly ... acceptingly ... freely
So, as the sun of our self-seeking sets,*

Jesus' consciousness dawns WITHIN ours

– As the One to whom I belong

– Who expresses all I AM

To "I AM"...

Our third call is to CO-EXPERIENCE

BEING CHRIST TO OTHERS !

... Tenderly ... acceptingly ... freely

So, as our arms open in compassion to others,

It is His that GATHERS them, to EMBRACE them;

And, as they seek our hands,

It is His that leads them gently

To His Abba Father.

These three calls –

Resonate in harmony, enhancing each other,

Each enlivening the whole, in deepest COMMUNION.

Thus to be Christ : to the FATHER, to SELF, and to OTHERS,

Is to be ACCOMPANIED BY HIM

Into a Divine Communion

... To live there, AS HIM,

And simply, TO BE HIM

Always.

En-Personed ! ¹

Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !

Raised up by Abba's Love,

We are no longer MULTIPLE sons and daughters

... Many, self-directed, individuals ...

But, surpassingly,

Are EN-PERSONED IN CHRIST

– Made ONE PERSON with Christ Risen

–Through “the Spirit who raised Jesus !” ²

Wondrously, we are EN-FAMILIED AS HIM !

EN-PEOPLED AS HIM !

Swept up into the arms of Abba !

There enlivened by Their Spirit !

Free with Christ's freedom ! One with Christ's CHOICE !

Constituted in this New Creation – the Cosmic PERSON of Jesus Ascended,

The Beloved of the Universe,

WE, AS Christ Jesus, achieve our freedom within His

–Through that Paschal decision of His, motivated only by LOVE :

Easter's Abba granting us, IN HIM, ultimate possibilities of choice !

Yet Risen Love has no hesitation ...

WITH HIM, we choose THE KEY ONE, the one which crucified Him –

“The Son of Man is come ... to serve and to give His life ... for many.” ³

All OTHER possibilities cease to exist,

Because our choice is ETERNALIZED in His !

We commit to Jesus' narrow path of gentle CONSTRAINT

... To follow the way of LESS and LESS,

So as ALWAYS to be Christ ... to the Father, to oneself, and to others

To daily carry His "light burden" of loving others, ⁴

Of living out our Eucharist through service

... "Being all things to all people" IN HIM, ⁵

For "all things are POSSIBLE FOR GOD !" ⁶

1 Poem 852, Marian Valley monthly Retreat, August 2007.

2 Rom 8:11

3 Mk 10:45

4 Mt 11:28

5 1Cor 9:22 (NRSV)

6 Mt 19:26 (NRSV)

Suffering Centers Our Spirits ¹

*The wonderful gift of weakness, accepted,
Is the especial gift of the Spirit ...
To the Beloved's suffering remnant
Of faithful hearts.*

*For most of the world's people
... Including many with a faith that is tentative or weak ...*

*Accumulative suffering can DISSIPATE
Our spirit's energies and resolve,
Leading us to distort reality as something
Just to be ENDURED.*

*This CONFINES us, variously ...
Within our bodies, within our feelings, within our minds
– Contracting our spirits, to the TIMID LIMITS of a faith
Conditioned by multiplying fears !*

*For faith-filled followers
–Even though intense chronic pain, as for all,
Can EXCLUDE almost all other concerns –
Suffering still CENTERS one's spirit
So that ...*

*Only core prayers, focus our hearts,
Only persons who are open, engage our spirits,
Only KEY deep quests, concentrate our minds.*

KEY QUESTS, within the heart of suffering, are these :

To continue being a Eucharistic personality,

To ever deepen our Paschal consciousness,

To rejoice that ours is an ecclesial heart !

And because our Beloved brother ACCOMPANIES us

To the very epicentre of every suffering

– Blessing it with His TRANSFORMATIVE Presence –

Our suffering, IN HIM, now opens us

To all who LIVE !

To all that IS !

In this way, suffering invites us :

–To be truly empathetic,

As Calvary's Mary was ... embracing her Beloved's anguish

... Co-suffering with Him, for ALL who suffer;

–To co-identify with the Crucified Jesus' consciousness

Of HIDDEN burdens that all carry ...

Allowing THEIR load to become OURS, in Christ,

Thus allowing our suffering to become CO-REDEMPTIVE

... As we entrust ourselves, IN Christ, into Abba's hands.

Your Enabling Spirit ¹

*Abba, ENABLE US,
Through Your Spirit of Humility,
To become ever more like Christ
– So as to receive ALL YOU ARE !*

*And ENABLE US,
Through Your Spirit of Thankfulness,
To have our hearts fortified
–So as to give ALL WE ARE !*

Not for the Good of Others ¹

If they fail to FREE us, for the GOOD of others :

– The pursuit of pleasure ... ABUSES others, generates entitlement,

And spawns lust and over-indulgence;

– The pursuit of possessions ... EXPLOITS others, generates inequalities,

And spawns greed, and flaunting display;

– The pursuit of power ... DISEMPOWERS others, generates entitlement,

And spawns arrogance, and insistence on privilege.

Spirit : One Who Indwells Another ¹

PREAMBLE : *Spirit is threefold :*

**The Divine Spirit – Father and Son, indwelling Each Other*

In the Spirit of Them Both

**Pure spirits – Angels*

**Embodied spirits – Humankind.*

This poem, in referring to spirits, not Spirit, is focussing on angels and human beings.

A spirit, in its very essence,

Is one who CAN indwell another ...

Who, possibly, could indwell all other spirits

And be mutually indwelt by them.

Either through NATURE or through GRACE,

A spirit can indwell only RECEPTIVE spirits,

And can be indwelt, only if one chooses to be RECEPTIVE.

Both spirits enter into such SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP, to varying degrees.

While every spirit is OF GOD who IS Spirit,

And is open, in the NATURAL ORDER, to the Spirit of God

As the CENTERING SPIRIT of creation –

All remain free to disown

Their 'belongingness' to God, as creatures !

Indeed, some human spirits opt to become self-focussed, and closed-in

– Closed, for considerable periods, to indwell, or to be indwelt by, any open spirits.

Indeed, such human spirits at times, through deceitful overtures of fellowship,

Can be deliberately disruptive of the inner life of others

– In a somewhat similar fashion,

To Satan and his ‘fallen’ spirits !

But for all spirits, divinely vitalized by GRACE

... ‘To belong to God’,

Is a spirit’s most critical free choice

– That PERSONALIZES a response to God’s offer of friendship.

Such a choice FOR God,

Allows Creation’s CENTERING SPIRIT, also God’s Spirit,

To become for them, the Spirit of Love ...

To CENTER who they have become, through grace, IN CHRIST

– Indwelling those who, already, mutually indwell each other, IN Christ !

This Spirit of Love of Intimacy, of Enrapture,

Draws them into the very heart of the Divine Union,

Where Abba and the Ascended Jesus

Lovingly unite IN the Spirit.

For us, this Inner Communing is accessible and enabled, through the Eucharist !

Thus, as “members, one of another”, CENTERED by the Spirit, IN Christ, ²

They fulfil their TRUE NATURE AS SPIRITS

– Seeking completion and consummation

Through Loving Communion

With THE SPIRIT, who is God !

1 Poem 856, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, November 2007.

2 Eph 4:25

The Centering Spirit of Humanity ¹

*When WE, as graced spirits,
Commune with other spirits, human or angelic,
– By mutually chosen indwelling –
Obviously, we do so, centered by God’s own Spirit
God’s enabling, Centering Holy Spirit !*

*The experience of Communing, here,
Is sensed in its ULTIMATE expression
As oceanic feelings of togetherness
... Where fellowship becomes absorption
Into the Sublime Simplicity of God’s Spirit
– Who, “is so pure, as to pervade and permeate all things
... Penetrating all intelligent, pure and most subtle spirits” ²
... Centering different spirits in different ways !*

*This Centering Spirit is the human spirit’s integrative ‘Centre’
Both in the order of creation, and in the order of GRACE,
–Both naturally, and IN CHRIST.
In the latter, one’s imitation of Christ, and one’s graced destiny
Meet, becoming one, IN the Spirit !*

Here, human dignity is wholly experienced and fully realized ...

Through continually being led within, to this ‘Centre’, in our daily journeying home.

The person comes home to all divinely-human possibilities, implicit in his or her dignity ...

As an en-Spirited brother and sister of Christ !

We also do this, AS A PEOPLE

– Coming home together to our collective dignity

... As those whom Abba has EN-PEOPLED as His very own ! ³

In a special expression of this,

Human parents CO-GENERATE with humanity's Centering Spirit

In the creation of another human person.

In doing so, this Centering Spirit is GENERATIVE of a new human SPIRIT

–Precisely, at the moment of conception.

The parents are generative of BOTH a bodily genetic contribution,

And MOST profoundly, for many, an invitation to a CO-SHARE IN THAT DIVINE LOVE

That so desires to create NEW LIFE !

Together with this NEW human spirit's OWN, IMPLICIT INCLINATION TO CHOOSE

To belong to God who is Life –

The Centering Spirit unites with the parents in a single purpose

... To form a new human person

–As another possible expression of LOVE AND FREEDOM

In the universe !

The deepest of all Mysteries,

Is that having been gifted with Communion

In the Centering Spirit who is One,

We can further experience, and have confirmed by Scriptural Revelation,

That the One, IS, in deepest Reality,

Three Persons living out Their Oneness in surpassing Fellowship !

This Fellowship – by Their sheer wondrous, loving Gift to us –

They CHOOSE to live WITH us, and IN us !

*Through utter love,
They choose to live out Their ETERNAL FAMILY LIFE
WITHIN us, and WITHIN all receptive en-spirited reality,
IN CHRIST !*

1 Poem 857, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, November 2007.

2 Wis 7:24, 23 3 See NOTE Poem 168.

Journey into Faith : Love's Seven Overtures ¹

—Based on Peter's journey into faith ... Mt 14:22-23

—LOVE READIES US FOR CONVERSION—

Life's storms buffet our hearts. ²

Though we might cling to each other for comfort,

We are often adrift AS INDIVIDUALS,

Disconnected from each other ...

Each locked within one's own insecurities.

We are, deep down,

Fearful of a future

Marked by lovelessness.

Pummelled by such insecurities,

We become superstitious ...

Latching onto instant explanations and solutions

— "It's a ghost !" ³

... As we try to 'divine' a path into a future, full of unknowns !

Our looking for a SAVIOUR ⁴

Out of this predicament,

Is the very OPENING Love seizes upon ...

—LOVE'S FIRST OVERTURE —

*Love takes the initiative,
And announces His PRESENCE*

— “It is I !” ⁵

... *Echoing Yabweh's revelation to Moses*

Tell my people “I AM has sent me to you”. ⁶

Love's Presence is both calming — “Do not be afraid”, ⁷

As it is comforting — “Take heart !” ⁸

All of this affirms us with an experience of Communion

— “I am with you”, ⁹

... *An experience of INTIMACY,*

Into which Love yearns to attract us, FOR GOOD !

Truly, it is Love

Who plants the seed for our faith to develop.

—LOVE'S SECOND OVERTURE —

Time passes.

Insecurities and doubts re-enter our hearts

— “Love, IF it is You ... ?” ¹⁰

With bravado, WE seem to take the initiative

— “TELL me to come ... “ ¹¹

Yet, Love again reveals itself,

By quietly re-issuing the invitation to Communion

— “Come” ¹²

... *An invitation we could MISS,*

If we're distracted by the squalls of life.

Nonetheless, the seed of a trusting faith in the Other,

Begins to SPROUT ...

—LOVE'S THIRD OVERTURE —

Time passes.

This overture come to us in SILENCE.

Love re-assumes the initiative,

By showing itself CLEARLY to the seeker,

As the PERSON WHO BECKONS US to fellowship

... The One to whom we “start walking towards”,¹³

... The One on whom we fix our gaze.

Faith, stirred by this SIGHT of its LOVER

Begins to BUD, on the still young plant of faith.

— LOVE'S FOURTH OVERTURE —

Time passes.

Ambivalently, our QUEST FOR GUARANTEES from LOVE,

For a trust that is somewhat tentative,

Slowly emerges

... As we again seem to seize the initiative off Love.

We take our eyes Love,

Fearing “the force of the wind”¹⁴

... Even though Love's own gaze is fixed

Faithfully on us.

We try to walk the journey by our own efforts.

In response Love's overture is, again, a SILENT one :

It is Love's BEING THERE,

Love's simple assertion of PRESENCE.

Yet, in the midst of our ambivalent trust,

We PANIC ...

Pressured, BY FEAR, to abandon ourselves to Love

– “Love ! Save me !” ¹⁵

Imperfect though it is, the emergency helps deepen our faith,

As our sub-conscious knows, from now on

– ‘Love WILL BE THERE!’

So faith begins to BLOSSOM

... A faith, while highlighting dependence on Love,

Still remains fragile.

–LOVE’S FIFTH OVERTURE –

Here, Love clearly assumes the initiative,

And, in an overflow of compassion,

HURRIES to our rescue

– “Jesus put our His hand, AT ONCE, and HELD HIM !” ¹⁶

Again, Love’s overture is SILENT, but is revealed

Through Love’s PROACTIVE INTERVENTION

... Knowing that we, at least are READY,

To have Love enfold our will, within its own.

As we finally surrender the initiative to Love,

Within our hearts – as with Peter’s –

Faith now begins to FRUIT ...

LOVE'S SIXTH OVERTURE —

Love now CONTINUES the initiative,

And begins to TEST our faith, so as to validate the genuinness

... Of our exclamations of constant thankfulness for being saved,

... And of our many promises of reform and faithfulness.

Time passes ... before we hear ...with our conscience

— “O You of little faith, WHY did you doubt ?” ¹⁷

In the period that follows, our ‘fruiting’ faith

Has to WITHSTAND —

Inner spirit-buffeting by life’s winds !

Inner drying out of our emotions by life’s sun !

Inner lashing of our mind-sets by life’s storm-rains !

However, all of these can become, THROUGH GRACE, accelerators of growth in faith :

—Life’s buffeting winds can STRENGTHEN OUR HOLD on Love’s branch,

—Life’s drying out periods can READY US TO THIRST for Love’s living waters,

—Life’s lashing storm-rains can boost deep reservoirs of grace,

All, allowing Love’s Life to flourish !

In these ways, Love reveals its purposeful plan

To prepare us for CONSTANT COMMUNING

—By robustly enhancing

Faith’s full-fruiting potential !

—LOVE'S SEVENTH OVERTURE—

Here, both Love and Love's disciples act in concert,

Revealing Love's Glory

... Through Love's DEFINITIVE calming of the storm within us, ¹⁸

... And through Love's re-vitalized disciples GLORIFYING Love,

For all the world to hear

— "Truly ! You are the Son of God !" ¹⁹

Indeed, Peter's, and our, faith has arrived

At the GENTLE CERTITUDE OF DEEP FAITH

... The very FRUIT of our faith, coming to full maturity.

Here, its sugars — the consolations of true Communion —

Fill the tissues of our ripened faith,

... Setting them aglow with colour

... Sweetening them with fragrance.

These are sure signs, clear signals, for Love, the harvester,

To pluck the sower's — Love's — now ripened produce

—So as to begin the cycle again, in others

... For truly, 'Love is glorified in her children !' ²⁰

1 Poem 858, Second Annual Retreat, Marian Valley, late November 2007, Day 1.

2 Symbolized by Mt 14:24 3 Mt 14:26 4 Cf Mt 14:30 5 Mt 14:27b 6 Ex 3:14

7 Mt 14:27c 8 Mt 14:b (NRSV) 9 Note on Mt 14b : this being a literal translation.

10 Mt 14:28a : 'LOVE' substituted for 'LORD' 11 Mt 14:28b 12 Mt 14:29a

13 Mt 14:29b 14 Mt 14:30a 15 Mt 14:30b 16 Mt 14:31a

17 Mt 14:31b (NRSV) 18 Cf Mt 14:32 19 Mt 14:33 20 Cf Lk 7:35

Your Eagerness for Intimacy ¹

Heart of our hearts ...
O how I sense Your closeness –
Your constant pursuit of my heart !
Gentle but insistent,
You seek not to disguise Your affection :
Your quest for my spirit is simple, open, and obvious.

Your memory fondly re-visits
Each of my timid approaches,
Every tentative opening of my heart.
Whatever my response to You,
You search, indeed long for, opportunities
... To offer Your tenderness,
To demonstrate Your eagerness for intimacy.

Mostly,
You knock at my heart's door
–Unambiguous in Your overtures of love –
Hopeful and excited !
Indeed, when my heart resists,
You besiege me
–Not to overcome, but to seduce,
To elope with the ambivalent captive within !

So close You are ...
At times I FEEL Your breathing,
Turning ...
I'm drawn into eyes
Yearning to embrace
... Steady, joy-filled, free-ing eyes.
Indeed, wherever I gaze, I see Your Face
—Open, inviting, loving,
Yearning for companionship.

Occasionally,
The passing gift of Your Presence
... The seeming caress of Your hands
Cupping my face ...
Edges me ever so close.
You even drawing me closer ...
Into the encompass of Your Breath,
Into Your Spirit-Kiss,
Into Enrapture
... Where I am Your willing captive !

