

**Folio Fifty-Seven**

# Folio 57

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**Their Breath of Love – Ours ! <sup>1</sup>**

*“Yahweh’s love fills the earth” : <sup>2</sup>*

*Only because Yahweh’s love first fills HEAVEN*

*— The Tri-Personal Heaven*

*Who is Abba, our Ascended Jesus, and the Spirit of Love —*

*Does Triune Love, “full, and running over”, <sup>3</sup>*

*Fill OUR open hearts, and through us, our earth .*

*This Loving Trinity*

*Are so fully in love*

*... Sharing wholly, openly, and Eternally of Themselves ...*

*That, for Each,*

*The only PERSONAL distinction,*

*Is Each’s FREE CHOICE*

*... Of the Gift of Self*

*... And of Each’s RECEPTIVITY to Each Other’s Self-Gift, in response.*

*What Wondrous Love ! What Wondrous Freedom !*

*Thus our Abba God, heart full of love,*

*Opens fully, to give birth Eternally, to His Beloved Son,*

*And Eternally, fully opens to the PASCHAL Jesus’ own Self-Gift, in return*

*—Breathing forth together*

*Their Breath of Love ... to us !*

*This Breath of love, is Eternally, fully open IN US .*

*To all Abba and the Paschal Jesus are TOGETHER :*

*Personifying and ENABLING Their Mutual Love, for us .*

*More wondrously,  
Within us, amongst us, Abba is, SO CREATIVE OF LOVE  
THROUGH Jesus,  
That THEIR Breath of Love, Their Spirit,  
Becomes our Breath of Love !*

*Thus, the Fire of Their Love together,  
Becomes ours :*

*“I have come to light this fire on the earth;  
How I wish the blaze were ignited already !”<sup>4</sup>*

*In effect, Jesus yearningly says to us  
“May Abba give you the power, through His Spirit,  
... So that I ... may live in your hearts “fully ablaze”<sup>5</sup>*

*— “So that you may be filled  
With all the FULLNESS OF GOD”!<sup>6</sup>*

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1 Poem 1120, 30 Day Retreat, Lawson in Blue Mountains, October 2012, Day 25.

2 Ps 33:5

3 Lk 6:38

4 Lk 12:49

5 Cf Eph 3:16,17

6 Eph 3:19.

## A Dad's Advice <sup>1</sup>

*(The "prodigal's family" ... two weeks later :)*

*'Come in, boys, and sit down here, with me .*

*I'm so glad Abba has softened both your hearts.*

*It's wonderful to feel ... being a full family, again.*

*Specifically, there's a few feelings*

*That have been bubbling up in my heart*

*... That I need and would LOVE,*

*To share with you BOTH .'*

*'Firstly, please continue to "bear with each other"*

*—As you have, for the last fortnight —*

*"In complete selflessness"*

*And also, as I've seen ...*

*"With gentleness and patience". ALL, 2*

*"Do all that you can, to preserve" this brotherliness,*

*Which 'Abba's Spirit' has renewed WITHIN you*

*"By the GROWING PEACE that binds you together" ALL, 3*

*... A peace that follows forgiveness.'*

*'To be practical : "Don't wait for your brother to offend you*

*But settle with him, along the way". 4*

*And, as I said, it's a peace that 'growing'*

*... Like two graftings onto the same plant ...*

*And , if watered and cared for with attentiveness,*

*Will bloom, and bear fruit .*

*'And boys' (looking into each one's eyes, in turn)*

*"This same peace will settle in your own heart,*

*And any new growth in virtue*

*Is exactly like those few bread rolls*

*That the Master took, blessed*

*And gave to the crowd to eat*

*—Not only satisfying ALL of them,*

*But CREATING A SURPLUS*

*... In your case of goodness ...*

*Which can overflow to your brother, and to others in our family'.*

*'And lastly, if more trouble does arise*

*And threatens your love for each other,*

*... An attempt by either one of you, maybe to escape your self ...*

*(Here, he places his arm around his younger son)*

*'REMEMBER, how Abba PURSUED you before,'*

*(And looking into his eyes)*

*'And, recall to your heart,*

*The love lavished on you in your youth,*

*And, on your return home'*

*(Kissing him on the forehead) .*

*'And remember how you came 'sprinting' up the road*

*... Helped by the fact you were carrying NOTHING ...*

*And how I came "running" down the hill'.<sup>5</sup>*

*(Here, the elder brother moves to put his arms*

*Around his Dad and brother,*

*Their three heads facing inwards.)*

*... ‘And how we embraced and kissed ;*

*... I still can feel how you trembled !’*

*‘And remember, too*

*(With his arm, drawing his elder son closer,*

*And looking into his eyes)*

*‘How you were upset,*

*And how your anger melted away ...*

*And how I cried, and said,*

*“My son, you are with me always,*

*And all I have is yours”.’<sup>6</sup>*

*(All three heads touch,*

*And after a long silence, the father continues*

*... With their heads still bowed) —*

*“My whole being trembles at the thought,”<sup>7</sup>*

*Of anything like that,*

*Ever again ...*

*(And, after a shorter silence)*

*‘Let’s thank Abba, our loving God,*

*For softening both your hearts .’*

*(Both brothers embrace*

*... For the first time.)*

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1.Poem 1121, 30 Day Retreat, Lawson in Blue Mountains, October 2012, Day 26.

2 Eph 4:2

3 Eph 4:3

4 Lk 12:58

5 Lk 15:21

6 Lk 15:31

7 Hos 11:9.

## Abba, Our Gardener <sup>1</sup>

*The wild growth hugging the banks  
Of the small stream, running into the Valley of Sharon,  
Was my home  
— As it was for other trees, bushes and vines  
... Some stunted, or broken — but all overgrown and tangled.  
We were both fruit trees and herbs, decorative bushes and flowering plants.*

*My name is 'ruby pearl', as I am pomegranate tree,  
And my leathery fruit, though smaller than normal —  
When opened, reveals a treasury  
Of gleaming ruby pearls, of fruity red seeds.*

*Together, all the plants were once a Garden  
... But it has languished like this, for over a decade.*

*Then along You come, Abba  
— And we all breathed a sigh of relief.*

*'Thank Heavens ! A real Gardener !'  
You sweated lots of sweat ... even though they were wintry months :  
Heavy pruning, bringing in soil, staking and tying,  
Transplanting, making paths, and burning prunings for ash fertilizer.*

*But best of all, “each of us received Your gracious care,”* <sup>2</sup>  
*So that, by spring, we plants ... “together, formed a unity”* <sup>3</sup>  
*—Every plant “adding its own strength,” to enhance the whole .* <sup>4</sup>

*Quite early on, I had become Abba’s ‘favourite’*  
*... Though I was planted, away to the side, in a sunny corner.*  
*Maybe because of that, I was watered FIRST,*  
*And You Abba, especially “took time to dig and manure” me.* <sup>5</sup>

*Now, rather than ‘ruby pearl’,*  
*— Because of my oily, glossy leaves —*  
*You call me “My Anointed One” ... ‘My Christy’.*

*As spring arrives, I begin to bloom ...*  
*And sometimes, in the early evening ,*  
*You seek me out, whispering as You approach*  
*“How delicate is the fragrance of your perfume” ...* <sup>6</sup>  
*Your words fill me with delight, as You sing*  
*“Even the sound of your name smells sweet”!* <sup>7</sup>  
*And, as You come closer, my heart races*  
*... As “ You look to see if my blossoms are opening”.* <sup>8</sup>  
*At times, You pause “to drink in the nectar”, my luscious spring nectar* <sup>9</sup>  
*... And You’re so close, my pollen lingers on Your nostrils !*

*You return again and again, until, in high summer,*

*My pomegranates are fully ripened.*

*My yearning now holds no bounds —*

*“Yes ! Kiss me, with the kisses of Your mouth” <sup>10</sup>*

*... Taste the ruby pearls of my fruit — consume me !*

*... Draw me to Yourself ‘AD-ORA’ : to Your lips !*

*... Truly, in AD-ORATION !*

*Yes ! My prayer ... my ‘oration’ ... is answered !*

*I breathe in Your Breath ...*

*As You delight in me !*

*And, while You’ve left*

*An imprint of Your Love upon my lips,*

*It’s the imprint ON MY HEART*

*That deeply counts !*

*I hope to leave*

*This same love-imprint*

*On the hearts of my seedlings*

*... As each day, around me,*

*They revel in the warming light*

*Of our sunny corner .*

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1 Poem 1122, 30 Day Retreat, Lawson in Blue Mountains, October 2012, Day 27.

2 Eph 4:7

3 Eph 4:12

4 Eph 4:16

5 Lk 13:8

6 Sg 1:3

7 IBID

8 Sg 7:13

9 Cf Sg 8:2

10 Sg 1:2

**Adorable Abba** <sup>1</sup>

SEE NOTE FIRST

— 1 of a TRILOGY —

*O Abba, You are adorable ...*

*Drawing us, 'ad-ora' ... 'to Your LIPS', 'to be KISSED' <sup>2</sup>*

*...So that 'to adore', is to allow You to kiss US:*

*How wondrous You are, to choose to kiss US — we are Yours !'*

*Since the heart-instinct of faith-filled people*

*Is to hand over ALL to You, Abba*

*— Let all of our hearts, change !*

*Enthuse them ALL ... to surrender ALL !*

*O Abba, our heart's desire, midst violence, is to be gentle*

*... For to be gentle, is to be GODLIKE, like You*

*... A lovable Father, ever so sensitive, ever so inclusive :*

*“Treat us gently, as You Yourself are gentle.” <sup>3</sup>*

*O, How blessed are we, with such a Father !*

*Your boundless graciousness, begets graciousness in us*

*... Ensuring that Your Spirit's abundant graces*

*Cascade into our lives ... “grace upon grace”, <sup>4</sup>*

*Rendering us ever obliging, thoughtful, and thankful.*

*Abba, because Your Spirit of Peace, 'is the forgiveness of sins',* <sup>5</sup>

*Move all-of-open-heart, to forgiveness*

*... So that the Spirit's Peace that follows forgiveness,*

*May fill their hearts .*

*Most blest are we, Abba, to inherit Adam and Eve's privilege —*

*To have You walk with us, in Your garden ... in Your 'Paradisum'.* <sup>6</sup>

*We do so, en-Personed as we are,*

*IN Jesus Ascended, who assures us ...*

*"Know, that I AM with you always".* <sup>7</sup>

*Thus, together IN Him, hand in hand with You, Abba,*

*We are wholly open to Your Spirit-Presence .*

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**NOTE:**

The whole of this 30 Day Retreat was bathed in light

... the light of God's love ... from beginning to end.

As a Retreat OVERVIEW, I wrote a trilogy of poems

– One each for Abba, Jesus Ascended, and the Spirit

– On Each Person's ACTIVATING PRESENCE

Within the Fellowship of love, within our lives .

I wrote two poems on this, Day 28, and the last one, on Day 29.

1 Poem 1123, 30 Day Retreat, Lawson in Blue Mountains, October 2012, Day 28.

2 From the Latin    3 Dn 3:42    4 Jn1:16    5 Church's Eastertide Liturgy post-Communion prayer.

6 From the Latin, from the Greek, from the Persian word for 'garden of delights'    . 7 Mt 28:20 (IB), (JB 1966).

**Brother Jesus** <sup>1</sup>

(See Note for Poem 1123)

—2 of a TRILOGY—

*Ascended Jesus,*

*You wed all that is human, to all that is divine.*

*As a brother, You enlesh all our aspirations for the divine,*

*By humbly en-earthing Yourself*

*As the very best of what it is to be human*

*... While living fully “within the limitations of our weakness.”* <sup>2</sup>

*Both for You, and for us, Jesus,*

*Your Abba’s WONDROUS FATHERING, and Mary’s GRACED MOTHERING,*

*Together enable Your DIVINE BROTHERING of us.*

*O what a marvellous Mystery !*

*How lovingly You draw us, AS FAMILY, in Your Spirit,*

*Into Your very own relationship with Abba !*

*Brother Jesus, in Your garden*

*... Not ‘of delights’, but of facing death’s terror ...*

*The agony of Gethsemane resolves itself into a simple, radical choice*

*Where all is TRUST ...*

*Enabling us, too, to pray Your prayer*

— “Everything is possible for You Abba !” <sup>3</sup>

*IMMERSED, through our unfolding baptismal grace, in Your Paschal Mystery,*

*And thus, in Your SACRIFICIAL LOVE, Jesus,*

*Our suffering draws us into Your Abba's arms*

*... Because of His depthless Godly compassion for You !*

*We, as Your family, are thus ABBA'S BLEST HEIRS !*

*Jesus, Your REVEALED EQUALITY with Abba and the Spirit*

*In Your Ascension,*

*Wholly ELEVATES our human equality, DIVINIZING IT .*

*Indeed, as the first among human equals,*

*Your offer of Paschal adoption*

*... Allows us to be drawn into Your Ascended Person,*

*So that, IN You, we become*

*EQUAL sons and daughters of the SAME Father !*

*O Jesus Ascended, the most blest of humanity,*

*You are the unceasing focus of Abba's love,*

*And the Eternal template for the Spirit's creativity ...*

*Within the heart-spaces of humanity !*

*Ascended Jesus, AS God, You are our friend, our companion*

*... Even to sharing Your Dad with us !*

*... And lavishing us with Your Spirit !*

*— While sharing the very best of all that's human !*

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1 Poem 1124, 30 Day Retreat, Lawson in Blue Mountains, October 2012, Day 28.

2 Heb 5:2

3 Mk 14:36.

**Loyce, Our Paschal Spirit** <sup>1</sup> (See Note for Poem 1123)

—3 of a TRILOGY—

*The Spirit's 'garden' reduces a garden's usual dimensions*

*To the VERY PERSON of the Risen Jesus*

*... To that singular "new" human being, who transcends all time and all space,* <sup>2</sup>

*Forever rising, ascending, and giving us the Spirit !*

*Yes ! In His very Person ... Paradise beckons !* <sup>3</sup>

*Taken up with the Ascended Jesus, into the arms of Abba*

—Graced through Sacrament and Spirit—

*We are one with all Creation, both alive and inanimate,*

*... Cosmic brothers and sisters of a Cosmic Christ !*

*Thus, in our en-Spirited "new humanity",* <sup>4</sup>

—All are open, in Christ, to each other

*All "belong to each other"* <sup>5</sup>

*... Indwelling on another,*

*As he indwells them* <sup>6</sup>

*In the Paschal Spirit !*

*Because our en-Spirited humanity*

*Is utterly at home with God*

*... Within us, and between us ...*

*Historical transformative changes emerge,*

*As the Paschal Spirit ever-ushers-in 'the age of the Spirit'.*

*This Spirit of the Pasch becomes our Love, our Joy and our Peace,*

*Our 'LOY-CE' <sup>7</sup>*

*... The One who RELATES us to all others, in Christ,*

*Such that, all OUR RELATING ultimately focuses on Abba !*

*And our new life becomes a Paschal Life-Journey WITH Loyce !*

*As each new life-horizon appears for us,*

*Loyce, our Paschal Spirit,*

*Is its seed, its budding, its blossoming*

*... And the fruiting of God's Life of Love,*

*Within and between us !*

*Loyce our Paschal Spirit, is God's active Presence,*

*VITALIZING all, within and without.*

*Wondrously, Loyce BREATHES through our lives, integrating all*

*... Both, as the God of spontaneity and surprises,*

*And as the God of patient growth, and ever-deepening peace*

*—Suffusing our every experience with the Wonder of the Divine .*

*Loyce our Paschal Spirit, also ENABLES us*

*To both "TAKE AND EAT", all that is of Christ, <sup>8</sup>*

*Continually entrusting it all to Abba*

*... Ever enabling our life-choices, to be truly PASCHAL,*

*And our very personalities, to be profoundly EUCHARISTIC .*

*Loyce our Paschal Spirit, is for us always,  
The Spirit of Equality, and thus of Human Dignity.  
As such, the Spirit CENTRES our identity  
In Christ, as our BROTHER,  
And thus, IN Abba, as 'His Father and our Father'.<sup>9</sup>  
In so doing, the Spirit elevates our dignity, and destiny, to the Divine :  
Drawing our essential self, and our deepest emotions  
Within Jesus Ascended's own wondrous communing with Abba !*

*Finally, Loyce our Paschal Spirit,  
As the Spirit of the Beauty of Love,  
Radiates this glory of God ceaselessly,  
Within and without,  
Enbeautying our lives and our environs,  
Inviting us, to CENTRE our lives on LOVE .*

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1 Poem 1125, 30 Day Retreat, Lawson in Blue Mountains, October 2012, Day 29.

2 Eph 2:15 (JB)

3 See footnote 6 Poem 1123.

4 Eph 2:15 (NRSV)

5 Rom 12:5

6 Cf Jn 14:17,20

7 Pronounced 'LOY-CEE'

8 Mt 26:26

9 Cf Jn 20:17

NOTE: Day 30 the following day was the end of the RETREAT. No poem for Day 30.

**Seed of Eternal Life** <sup>1</sup>

*Death is not only the opposite of life,  
But, as the STILL-BORN offspring of sin,  
Is the very negation of life !  
As sin's culmination ...  
It is anti-life, hostile to life !*

*How wondrous then, for humanity,  
... For all creation ...  
Is the Paschal Christ's victory over death  
—Emptying death of all its content !  
Indeed, Abba transforms His Beloved's BODY  
Into a waiting womb ... in which He plants  
The seed of ETERNAL LIFE  
—His own divinely life-giving Love !*

*How doubly wondrous is His RENEWAL of life  
For us, now :  
“Life is CHANGED, not ended !  
And an eternal dwelling  
Is MADE READY for us !” <sup>2</sup>  
Life, for us, is not only resurgent,  
But is utterly transformed ... wholly transcended ...  
By being ELEVATED to the Divine !*

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NOTE: No new poem was written until this New Year, 2013.

1 Poem 1126, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Holidays Gold Coast, January 2013.    2 Church's Mass for the Dead.

**Fountain of Life** <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus Ascended*

*...En-Spirited with Life*

*Within Abba's Embrace ...*

*Is death's antidote !*

*Humanity's ever-renewing FOUNTAIN OF LIFE !*

*Uplifted to His Father*

*Jesus enables us, His brothers and sisters*

*—To COME ALIVE within Abba's Embrace !*

*—To have all our relationships re-vitalized and transformed !*

*—To join in Creation's Song of Thanks ...*

*For our being UPLIFTED TO THE DIVINE, in Him !*

## Sacrifice's Cycle of Love <sup>1</sup>

*In sacrificing for another,  
Our fond hope is that what we give  
Is of real value*  
— *Specifically, so that the other, will FEEL VALUED.*

*Moreover, in this very act of giving ...  
The newly created 'space' in our hearts  
Is an invitation to the God of all life,  
... Who responds to every love-vacuum ...  
To fill our hearts, to overflowing  
... Allowing us, to feel Divinely valued ourselves,  
And, with quickened hearts, in turn,  
Valuing others, ever more deeply .*

*Thus, sacrificing for another,  
Becomes the initial impetus  
Of an ever-deepening  
CYCLE OF LOVE  
... Mirroring Abba, Jesus and the Spirit's  
Own eternal Circle of Love !*

## The Merest Spark of Love <sup>1</sup>

*The merest spark of true love  
Between any two human beings  
Is something to sing about.*

*The sparkle of love  
Lighting up human hearts,  
Is something choirs of angels  
Exult over!*

*Why? Because all love ...*

*Has its source  
In the God 'who-IS-love' <sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 1129, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, March 2013.

<sup>2</sup> 1Jn 4:8.

## Sharing Your Fellowship of Equality <sup>1</sup>

*Humiliation, trauma, heartbreak*  
*... In a word, deep suffering,*  
*Gives those, committed to co-suffer with Christ,*  
*A heart-sense, to 'discover'*  
*... The depths of His ever-faithful Presence,*  
*... And the layered paradox for us, in bearing His Cross .*

*O Jesus, our brother,*  
*In our profound desire to attract others to You,*  
*Through experiencing deep empathy with our every act of compassion*  
*— Inflammé our hearts with Your Spirit*  
*By allowing our lives to resonate with Yours on the Cross !*  
*O Jesus, as our lives become ever more truly human, like Yours*  
*... Evermore let our Spirit-fired PASSION-FOR-LIFE*  
*Reveal Your humble, gentle, crucified face to others .*

*O Jesus, brother without compare,*  
*Your young adult life was radicalized*  
*By the stark inequality You witnessed !*  
*This happened because Your open-hearted life, was so wondrously devoted*  
*To Abba ... "the God who has no favourites" ! <sup>2</sup>*  
*Brother Jesus, stoke the fires of our PASSION FOR EQUALITY !*

*Very personally, set my heart ablaze*  
*With Your passion TO SHARE WITH US*  
*... Your EQUALITY WITH OUR HUMANITY, on the Cross*  
*... And, therein, Your Fellowship of Equality with Abba and Loyce !*

*Let Your heart-bursting love for the side-lined*  
*Light up my ministry of love and prayer :*  
*Give wings to Your Spirit's 'promptings', in our lives,*  
*And let Your arms enfold ...*  
*All those I reach out to include and embrace .*

*And Jesus, closest of brothers,*  
*Be the heart,*  
*The radiant, inner life-force*  
*Of 'Your-our' intimacy*  
*With Abba !*

**Unable to Delight in God** <sup>1</sup>

*Greed, the hungering for wealth or possessions,*

*Will STEAL your soul :*

*Little by little,*

*It will undercut and hollow out —*

*Your key life-decisions,*

*Your dreams of personal security,*

*And your very destiny !*

*If you lust,*

*Or seek to satisfy*

*Your appetite for SELF-FOCUSSED sexual pleasure,*

*You will be unable, ultimately ...*

*To delight in God,*

*Or, in those who do so,*

*Or, in any relationship*

*Beyond your own fantasies ...*

*Which, increasingly, will hold you CAPTIVE !*

*If through arrogance, pride, or vanity,*

*You SEEK ...*

*To self-empower,*

*To self-celebrate,*

*Or to self-enhance,*

*You will tire of your own company,*

*Fail to value and keep friends,*

*Be constantly seeking an audience,*

*—Yet find Fellowship with God*

*... Unnecessary !*

**My Humanity within Yours** <sup>1</sup>

*O Jesus,*

*Fully live out Your humanity, within mine,*

*And grace me to live out my humanity, within Yours*

*— With the freedom with which You are free —*

*And thus, live it out fully, within others !*

*O Jesus, gift me*

*To live with the gracious regularity*

*Of Your own human rhythms ...*

*But also to welcome, hour by hour, as You did ...*

*The Spirit of Surprise !*

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1 Poem 1132, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, April 2013.

NOTE: Used by author as a prayer after communion.

**Each Eucharistic Community** <sup>1</sup>

*O Jesus,*

*Thank You for the special grace today,*

*Of this Eucharistic community of Yours :*

*(Breathing IN) ... I RECEIVE all that is theirs*

*(Breathing OUT) ... I GIVE all that is mine*

*... (Repeat the last couplet, twice more)*

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1 Poem 1133, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, April 2013.

NOTE: Used by the author as a prayer after communion.

## Love Is the Only Key <sup>1</sup>

*The Paschal Mystery is a loving, lovable Presence  
That dazzles and captivates our hearts,  
Transforming all who are open to its wonders !  
Yet, paradoxically, it is only by living out  
The specific Christian Mystery of SUFFERING ...  
That we are drawn into the depths of this enveloping Paschal Mystery .*

*By thus co-suffering with Christ,  
Through His Spirit, we can lovingly have our suffering transcended  
... For ourselves ... and for others,  
Thereby allowing this Paschal Spirit to integrate our lives, ever more fully .*

*We thus learn, through this experience,  
That LOVE is the only key to under-standing , TO LIVING OUT  
The enigma of pain, loss, isolation and disconnectedness.  
It is only the LOVE of the Crucified Jesus  
That can truly illuminate this enigma's impenetrability.  
Yes, it is only crucified LOVE, alone,  
In His Risen, Ascended Person,  
Who can incorporate human woundedness and estrangement  
INTO A FELLOWSHIP, that Divinely integrates ALL  
... Lovingly filling all hearts with Paschal Joy and Peace.*

## To Take on Christ's Identity <sup>1</sup>

*Wondrously transformed by Grace,  
I no longer live out of my own identity,  
But, enabled by the Spirit, welcome Christ  
To live out His identity within mine !  
O! What deep joy it is ...  
To be able to surrender our identity, and take on Christ's !*

*To do so is to challenge this century's worldly mindset  
That so exalts 'being your own person'!  
To do so is to undergo that metanoia  
That so exhilarated Saint Paul —  
'I live now, NOT with my own life,  
But with the life of CHRIST who lives in me !' <sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 1135, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, April 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Gal 2:20.

**An Ever-Attentive Compassion** <sup>1</sup>

*Loving Father, open our eyes, our hearts,*

*To the needs of our brothers and sisters .*

*Inspire in us, an ever-attentive compassion :*

*To comfort those who labour and are overburdened,* <sup>2</sup>

*To honour those with low self-worth,*

*To be ever-inclusive, ever warm-hearted to all .*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 1136, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, April 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Mt 11:28.

**Sensitized to Pray** <sup>1</sup>

*The margins of life are an ideal place for prayer —  
Being sidelined spiritually, emotionally, socially  
Often offers us a choice :  
To languish, depressed ... resenting what we've lost,  
Or to see our 'emptying-out' as an invitation ...  
To be permeated by that Paschal Presence  
"Who fills all in all", <sup>2</sup>  
And who leads us along His Way  
... Of being uplifted to a new risen Life  
... Of being raised, in His Ascent to Abba's Embrace  
... Of being en-Spirited with a heart, sensitized to pray.*

*Thus graced, we find ourselves  
Midst many sidelined brothers and sisters  
Who, in being similarly 'emptied out,' and Divinely uplifted,  
Come together in prayer,  
With lives increasingly CENTERED  
In the prayer of the Paschal Jesus  
... Hearts OPEN, IN HIS, to receive,  
... Hearts FREE, IN HIS, to give.*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 1137, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, April 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Eph 1:23

**Closed Hearts** <sup>1</sup>

*“If you do not forgive others,  
Your Father will not forgive your failings either .”* (Mt 6:15)

*Hearts that are closed to others  
Stay CLOSED to the Father’s forgiveness.*

*If we, in our mean-spiritedness  
—Do not want other hurt people  
To receive God’s comfort before us  
... And so gain an ‘advantage’ over us  
—Or, we simply want to force them*

*To forgive FIRST,  
Our hearts will grow proud, cold and inflexible  
... In a word, CLOSED and INSENSITIVE .*

*Thus, we’ll fail to sense Jesus’ gentle knocking  
On our heart’s door  
... Oblivious of His seeking to sit at the table of forgiveness.* <sup>2</sup>

*Simply, if our hearts do not STAY OPEN,  
If we refuse to be soft-hearted, flexible, and inclusive ...*

*We lock Jesus’ gentle Father*

*Out of our lives !*

*We’ll find we cannot bring ourselves*

*To pray this prayer to Abba ...*

*“Treat us gently, as You Yourself are gentle .”* <sup>3</sup>

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1 Poem 1138, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, May 2013.

2 Cf Rev 3:20    3 Deut 3:42.

## Unlimitedness <sup>1</sup>

*Gospel poverty gifts us with the potential  
for unlimited OPENNESS to God  
... through self-emptying*

*Gospel chastity gifts us with the potential  
for unlimited INTIMACY with God  
... through self-surrender .*

*Gospel obedience gifts us with the potential  
for unlimited DIGNITY, as God's Child  
... through choosing utter dependence.*