

Folio Sixty-Five

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(* meant to be sung)

Make Your Home in Me ¹

“Make your home in Me, AS I make Mine in you .” *Jn 15:4*

*More a direction than an invitation,
Jesus’ words to us, individually and together,
Focus our hearts
Not on our “Yes”, given at some pivotal point in time,
Nor on a passing experience of conversion,
But on a conversion of heart .
To ‘make a home’ in Him is not a matter
Of an episodic commitment of loyalty,
But of an ever-deepening “remaining” or “abiding” ²
With our Beloved .
It is being ‘totally at home’ with the One
With whom we experience an ever-deepening intimacy :
“I am my Beloved’s, and my Beloved is mine !” ³*

*In this continuing home-coming,
It is not OUR home-making that counts
But the INDWELLING of our Beloved
— HIS faithful abiding with us :
... “As I make Mine in you .” ⁴
It is HIS faithfulness, that is creative of a permanent bond
... Not my ‘faithfulness’ — fickle, as it usually is !*

He, “the altogether lovable” Faithful One ⁵

Is utterly faithful ... unto death :

“He loved them (us), to the end.” ⁶

Moreover, the more our homecoming reflects Jesus’ life purpose
... “To gather together in unity, the scattered children of God”... ⁷

The more we will truly conform to His Paschal Person

— As our suffering and resurrected brother

... Whom the Father ever delights to draw,

In His “new humanity”, to Himself. ⁸

It is Jesus, as the Uplifted One

— “He who had come from God”,

And has “returned to God” — ⁹

Who knows the way HOME to Abba .

It is He, in His Church,

Who leads us forward on the road,

That has brought us to where we ARE

And, who leads us HOME .

1 Poem 1280, Annual Retreat, Blue Mountains, October 2016, Day 3

2 Jn 15:7 3 Sg 6:3 4 Jn 15:4 5 Sg 5:16 6 Jn 13:1 Lit.(J.B.) 7 Jn 11:52

8 Eph 2:15 N.R.S.V. 9 Jn 13:3

Open-hearted, Like Jesus ¹

Open-heartedness is, above all else,

A grace given .

Wondrously, as a grace RECEIVED,

Our spirits ARE OPENED :

— Not to receive ‘ MORE ’ OF GOD,

But to commune with GOD

... More deeply, more intensively;

— Not simply to relate to ‘ MORE ’ PEOPLE,

But to BE CHRIST to the ‘ many ’ .

This we do — through being Christ especially to those

Most impoverished in PERSONAL GIFTS,

And crucially, impoverished in SPIRIT .

Worldly open-heartedness is ‘ inclusive bon homie ’;

Contrarwise, the core of graced open-heartedness

Is a heart that is empathetic, self-sacrificial, and joy-filled !

Moreover, to be open-hearted through grace,

Is to be open-hearted LIKE JESUS :

Trusting in Abba, poor in spirit, leaving no one unloved .

It is being attentive, both to the ‘ many ’ , and to the most vulnerable,

Because ... Jesus KNOWS,

That each of us, including Himself,

Will, at some time, join the ranks of the most vulnerable .

*To be open-hearted like Jesus,
Is, ultimately, to feel WITH each vulnerable person :
... Firstly, to feel THEIR vulnerability,
... More deeply, to somehow share its consequences
... And most deeply, to choose to suffer with them
— Hopefully, to invite them to receive
Abba's ever-available grace of joy-filled open-heartedness
— To have Jesus' Spirit stir their spirit
... To give, as they have received !*

The Spirit's Springtime of Graces ¹

*As late springtime's apple blossom petals
Swirl 'round my head, and snowflake my face,
The post-winter breezes carpet them below,
To soften my feet's progress
... As God's Child, welcomed to God's garden, WITHIN .*

*What is personalized for me ... wandering hand in His hand,
... With countless like sisters and brothers WITHIN, IN CHRIST ...
Is also played out ABOVE me
— As treetops, tossing and swirling in dancing semi-circles
... Delighting too, in the updrafts of the same cream petals ...
WITNESS to the Spirit
... Dabbling patterns of light and shadows, on lawns,
... And dappling them, with OUR Wedding Day confetti trails of petals !*

*Yes ! It is so Divinely EASY to trust in the 'Godliness' of nature :
... In the Father's daily creative bountifulness, and limitless delight,
... In the sheer love of life, and carefreeness
Of a playful Son's brothering presence !
... In the Spirit of Humanity's uplifting US
With Her springtime overflow of graces
— Dancing Her way into our hearts !*

1 Poem 1282, Annual Retreat, Blue Mountains, October 2016, Day 5.

NOTE: Poem, written after a day visiting display gardens, in springtime Leura in the Blue Mountains.

Staying, Abiding, Co-indwelling with the Lord ¹

To stay with Our Lord, to abide in His Loving Presence,

Is not something we initiate, much less sustain :

It is “not anything of your own, but a gift from God.” ²

Before all else, such a ‘staying’ is energized, vitalized by Love :

“The Son of God ... loved me, and gave Himself up for me”. ³

Yet, why does “God love us with so much love”, we ask. ⁴

St. Paul answers — “To give us a PLACE WITH HIM ... in Christ Jesus”! ⁵

Significantly, we NEVER ‘wait’, ‘stay’, or ‘abide’, ALONE :

We do so only IN Jesus, who ‘abides’ with Abba, ETERNALLY.

And, of course, as well as co-indwelling WITH Abba and Jesus,

We also ‘abide’ and ‘stay’ with all our faith-filled sisters and brothers

— As “We are all members one of another” IN Christ! ⁶

More deeply, ‘staying’, co-indwelling with the Lord,

Is something gentle, restful, and companionable - IN Jesus, who awaits us humbly :

— “Come to Me ... and I will give you REST... for I am ... humble of heart”. ⁷

‘Abiding’ ought NEVER be dogged persistence, or an assertion of stamina or of will power

... Vis-à-vis others, who are not ‘as persevering’!

Much less ought it be religious grim endurance or Spartan devotion !

Nor is abiding ... acting as a fortress for the valued past, against incursions of the new !

While the Scriptures do encourage us “not to give way”, to “remain faithful”, ⁸

And also to “stand firm”, and “to watch and be on your guard”... ^{9, 10}

This is always to be done, in a relationship context ... OUT OF LOVE .

‘Abiding’ is not done out of a sense of competitive asceticism, or of ‘holding the line’.

These latter are un-Christlike, because they are not His values,

But those of the world : ‘proving’ others inadequate, and self-empowerment .

Yes, truly and gently, Christian co-indwelling with the Lord

Needs always to arise out of one’s heart :

EITHER because ... “Our hearts are on FIRE !” ¹¹

Or because we’re “hungering and thirsting” for Love’s Presence . ¹²

Moreover, this ‘abiding’ needs to be, a PRAYERFUL peaceful attentiveness .

It reflects prayer’s most elemental form — LISTENING with one’s spirit

... To the GOD-WHO-CALLS ... to the promptings of His Son’s Spirit .

Indeed, in being responsive to these ‘calls’, to these ‘promptings’,

We are constantly graced with the gift of the NEW .

Co-indwelling is NOT a persevering endeavour to re-affirm the past,

But a continual yearning for the company of the One who proclaims

“Behold ! I make ALL things NEW !” ¹³

And also “Now, I AM revealing new things to you, hidden and unknown to you

— Things created just now, this very moment !” ¹⁴

Truly, we only co-indwell with the One, in whom, as St, Paul asserts,

“If anyone is IN Christ

... Everything has become NEW !” ¹⁵

More profoundly, CO-INDWELLING with Christ is, being “renewed by a spiritual revolution” ¹⁶

... Because, Christ “created in Himself, one NEW humanity” ¹⁷

So, “Now we are free, in the NEW WAY of the Spirit !” ¹⁸

Furthermore, in co-indwelling with the Ascended Jesus,

We are gifted with a whole new vision of life :

“ For us, our HOMELAND is HEAVEN”,¹⁹

And, as Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity exults,

“ I have found my heaven on earth, since heaven is God,

And God is in my soul !”²⁰

More deeply, we are forever ‘ finding’ IN our Beloved

‘ New’ PEOPLE TO LOVE, people just like Christ Himself :

“ How beautiful you are ! How delightful !”²¹

You are “ altogether lovable !”²²

Indeed , continuing to live in His Presence, we become His captive :

“ My Lord, turn Your eyes away, for they hold me captive !”²³

As this graced SENSE OF PRESENCE deepens and deepens,

We discover, with the deepest humility,

That Christ Himself, becomes the willing captive

... Of any faith-filled person, who love “ to abide” in His Presence :

CHORUS — “ The King is held captive by your tresses (by you) !”²⁴

BRIDE — Yes ! “ His desire is for me !”²⁵

Paradoxically, God, overcome with love for those He has chosen, exults :

“ How beautiful you are ! How attractive !

My love ! My delight !”²⁶

Totally awestruck by the Creator-Redeemer's love for themselves
Such faithful ones, overcome by desire, mirroring God's,
Find themselves yearningly calling to their God,
 "Come, my Beloved, let us go ... We will spend the night ..." ²⁷
This very profound desire for union with the Beloved
Is a simple, open response to the Loving One,
Who had earlier called the faithful disciple to Himself:
 "Come, my love, my lovely one, come!" ²⁸

Ultimately, in this 'heaven on earth', with accustomed roles, radically reversed
The Bridegroom is THIRSTY AND IMPLORES US,
 'Give me a drink ... I am thirsty' (Jn 4:7, 19:28)
 ... Or, in Gregory Nazianzen's words, 'God is THIRSTING, to be my thirst!' ²⁹
This is the most profound expression of 'abiding', or co-indwelling,
In MUTUAL love, with the Lord.

1 Poem1283, Annual Retreat, Blue Mountains, October 2016, Day 5.

2 Eph 2:8 3 Gal 2:20 4 Eph 2:4 5 Eph 2:6 6 Rom 12:5 7 Mt 11:28
 8 Phil 4:1 9 Jm 1:12 10 Lk 12:15 11 Cf Lk 24:32 12 Mt 5:6 13 Rev 21:5 14 Is 48:7
 15 2Cor 5:17 N.R.S.V. 16 Eph 4:23 17 Eph 2:15 N.R.S.V. 18 Rom 7:6 (I.B.) 19 Phil 3:20
 20 Letter, Bl. Elizabeth 21 Sg 1:16 22 Sg 5:16 23 Sg 6:4-5 24 Sg 7:6 25 Sg 7:11
 26 Sg 7:7 27 Sg 7:12 28 Sg 2:10 29 The Cantata of Love (B. Arminjon)

Partnering Him in Vulnerability ¹

(Through the eyes of the two disciples :)

In “pressing” Jesus Ascended “to stay with us”, ²

The eyes of our hearts, IN HIS Presence, come to recognize :

Him ... as HE IS, and ourselves ... as WE ARE .

Gathered together as an earthly THREE,

And, in loving awe of His wondrous, radiant humanity

— The now transparently clear FULFILMENT of who WE are to be —

We thus see ourselves in utter simplicity :

Surprisingly, like Him ... in many obvious ways,

But O ! So vulnerable ...

But then, as He humbly breaks the bread,

And lovingly hands it to each of us ... our eyes meeting ...

We become witnesses

To the wounds of HIS once stark vulnerability

... Now mysteriously become an open INVITATION to us,

TO PARTNER HIM, in sacrificial WILLINGNESS

To substitute our pain, our vulnerability, our suffering

— For OTHERS !

Thus, we become truly human, transformatively human ... LIKE HIM,

— So intensely human, as to be WITH Him, IN Him,

As He opens a pathway within His own Person

... To His all-compassionate Abba !

*The togetherness of that evening, the grace of hearts united in joy,
Suffused our lives ever since, with a depthless love
... His RENEWED human spirit wondrously radiating peace
... A peace seemingly flowing from His Cross .
His wounds — the home for all our vulnerabilities —
Become openings for His Revitalizing Life
To heal, renew, and bond us as one .*

*The remembrance of that night
... When we were so eager to open the door to fellowship,
When “our hearts were on fire” in our enthusiasm ... ³
Is now played out, in these same hearts today
... But, as if roles are reversed :
Now, it is He who seems to be the host,
And we, His guests ...*

*We so love Him, that our protestations die on our lips
... As “He puts on an apron,
Sits US down at table,
And WAITS on us”. ⁴*

*As the years pass, we proclaim this new vision
Of Jesus the Servant, the Vulnerable One,
As the SURE HOPE for the best of human futures :
“If it comes slowly,
We simply WAIT,” ⁵
Wait, WITH HIM, at our side ...
A brother, at home with vulnerability .*

1 Poem 1284, Annual Retreat, Blue Mountains, October 2016, Day 6.

2 Cf Lk 24:29

3 Lk 24:32

4 Cf Lk 12:37

5 Hab 2:3

Our Life-Journey in Christ's Humanity ¹

Our journeying to our Living Abba

Reaches its destination, wondrously where it came to birth :

IN GOD who is LOVE !

Thus, our journeying TO LOVE,

Begins IN LOVE,

Proceeds hand-in-hand, WITH LOVE

Because LOVE, IS the JOURNEY !

And Love, is its DESTINATION !

How can a journey of such DIVINE INTIMACY come about ?

Surely it requires the Uplifting of our humanity's very nature ?

'Of course it does !' answers Jesus,

'For love of my Abba God,

For love of you, my sisters and brothers,

I chose to dwell WITH you,

On OUR Divine-human-journey to Divine LOVE !'

'Only my Divine DESCENT, enables the ASCENT of humanity :

I can only save and ELEVATE what I assume !

In truth, only through the humanization of God

... Through the utter impoverishment of being born of the earth ...

Can the divinization of humankind

... Through the utter enrichment of being re-born Eternally ...

Become possible !'

*‘ For you, my natural brothers and sisters,
In the humanity WE SHARE ...
To become RE-BORN sisters and brothers,
... Through OUR Abba lovingly adopting you
Into the Divinity WE share with you ...
Is only possible, through LOVE .’*

*‘ My sharing of your humanity,
And your sharing of My Divinity,
Begins with Abba’s Love !
Evolves through Abba’s Love !
And ends in Abba’s Love !
Love is its birth !
Love is its journey !
Love is its destiny !’*

*‘ For love of Abba ... My joy as Love’s Son
Is, not only to share OUR humanity,
But, to “ learn, through suffering” for-you-all, ²
How “ to be made perfect”, in MY HUMANITY . ³
This itself made possible your “ eternal salvation”, ⁴
And ENABLED YOUR ELEVATION as Divine sisters and brothers !
Thus, I became for you, “ the Source of Life”! ⁵
Made so, by “ the Father who is the Source of Life”! ⁶
The result is that, in my “ new humanity”, ⁷
— In the renewed spirit, of my Resurrected, Communal Person —
I can CARRY YOUR HUMANITY on its journey,
WITHIN my own humanity,
— Into the waiting, eager arms of OUR Loving Abba !’*

‘OUR JOURNEY of love, IN Love,
Is through life ... into death ... into LIFE !
In your own life and death, even though Sheol
“Never lets go what it has swallowed”,⁸
The grip of Sheol’s ally, Death is ALWAYS OVERCOME BY LOVE
... For truly, “Death is swallowed in Victory”⁹
— The Victory of LOVE !
Also in your life ... LOVE, whom you supposed,
Perhaps many times, had deserted you
— NEVER retreated to some distant, impersonal place,
But only ever “to the abyss, in the depths of your heart !”¹⁰

‘In your Life, following YOUR-BEING-RAISED-WITH-ME by OUR Abba,
I continue to CARRY YOUR RENEWED HUMANITY in Mine
To the Circle of Divine Love, within,
On My Ascension to OUR Loving Abba !’

‘Thus,” With you in Me, and I in you”¹¹
— In our Ascension to Abba —
“Because I live ... YOU will live !”¹²
Then, as Loving Abba and I DANCE FOR JOY IN THE SPIRIT,
Our humanity’s journey home is GLORIFIED in a Divine Embrace
... As humankind is elevated in My Person
To Divine Equality !’

*' Thus, dear sisters and brothers,
Our humanity is at home, NOW,
In the arms of our Eternal Father
— Breathing forth the Spirit of Love —
... Because your life-journey itself is, at every point,
A JOURNEY IN MY PASCHAL PERSON
— Ever Ascending to a Most Loving Father !'*

1 Poem 1285, Annual Retreat, Blue Mountains, October 2016, Day 7.

2 Heb 5:8 3 Heb 5:9 4 Heb 5:9 5 Jn 5:26b 6 Jn 5:26a 7 Eph 2:15 N.R.S.V.
8 Cantata of Love, B. Armijon 9 1Cor 15:55 10 Op.Cit. Armijon 11 Jn 14:20 12 Jn 14:6

Hidden with Christ, in God ¹

When St. Paul proclaims that, for all faith-filled hearts,

“Our live is HIDDEN with Christ in God”, ²

Our initial response is probably surprise ...

But soon, grace leads us to acclaim,

‘What a privilege !

What a wonderful predicament !

... To be hidden WITH CHRIST !

... And, IN GOD !

What more ... is heaven ?’

Still, we ponder —

‘Are we hidden FROM others ?

... From relationships ?

... From the vitality of community life ?

NO — certainly NOT !

For, doesn’t St. Paul assert : “Christ IS everything ! And IN everything !” ³

YES! Even for the most hidden contemplative ...

IN Christ, there is a divinely-human outreach

TO ALL that is good, beautiful, and true

— TO ALL that is loving ... and lovable !’

*‘What do we miss out on ?
Seemingly ... ONLY a capricious, self-boosting world
... And, its alluring deceits !
O ! How heartfelt should be our thanks !
Being in the company of those millions of like-spirited
Sisters and brothers, IN Christ,
... We are never alone ! Never deprived !
Yes ! A whole world of love beckons !
Yet, more deeply, love summons us to commune, with ALL
... From the most, to the least Christlike of people .
What a wonderful privilege !
No one, in Christ’s world, is to be left unembraced !*

‘Thus, “planted in love and built on love’ ⁴

We are radically eager :

To proclaim ... and BE ... the Good News of this love ...

— To all, who live without it :

— To “cast (Christ’s) fire upon the earth !” ⁵

— To tell the story of Christ’s loving :

... How He exults in our humanity !

... How He gathers all-who-love, TOGETHER !

... How He reveals to the “hidden selves” of His countless imitators, ⁶

And to “the little ones” of this world, ⁷

— The heart-warming “mysteries of the kingdom” of Love ! ⁸

We are also eager to tell how, with boundless love, Christ’s Father, and OURS,

Who, seeing in us, hearts that crave to deeply belong

... “Can do INFINITELY more, than we can imagine’ !” ⁹

Thus, ultimately, “when Christ is revealed” ¹⁰

In all of our ‘hidden’ lives,

It is then ...

They will exult, to the OPEN gaze of all ...

“To be filled with the utter fullness of God!” ¹¹

1 Poem 1286, Annual Retreat, Blue Mountains, October 2016, Day 8.

2 Col 3:3

3 Col 3:11

4 Eph 3:17

5 Lk 12:49

6 Eph 3:16

7 Mt 11:25

8

IBID 9 Eph 3:19

10 Col 3:4

11 Eph 3:19

Embraced As Christ Is ¹

“Remember me, when you come into your kingdom”.

(Lk 23:42)

*When the good thief asks Jesus
To remember him ... to call him to mind,
Jesus lovingly tells him
That to EXPERIENCE Jesus' company, in His kingdom,
Is to be “in paradise” with God Himself! ²*

*For us, this request means
Being lovingly led by the Spirit, IN Jesus Ascended,
Into Abba's homecoming Embrace
... To be embraced, as the Ascended Jesus is!
...To EXPERIENCE the joy of Abba's EXPERIENCE of us
— Namely, to love, as we are loved
— In His Beloved Son!*

¹ Poem 1287, Year 18 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, November 2016.

² Lk 23:43

With Your Chastity, With Your Charity ¹

Jesus, may I be gifted
TOTALLY
With YOUR Chastity,
With YOUR Charity
... In thought, speech, and deed ...
— So that my life
Can radiate Your human loving
To all others .

Yes Jesus, please ask Abba for me
For the Spirit's triple gift ...
Of a humble and joyous chastity,
Of a humble and joyous charity,
And of a deep love for prayer
... Arising out of
Abba's inexhaustibly loving desire
To COMMUNE with us !

Draw Us All, Ever Closer ¹

*O Paschal Spirit,
Who enables all prayer
... All communing in love,
Let all who desire,
Share in what I pray for ... for myself,
And, in a special way, may those who oppose me
Openly share in all I am gifted with.
O Centering Spirit,
Draw us ALL, ever closer,
Within Jesus' Paschal Heart .*

Witnessing to Our Dignity ¹

*Abba grace us, TO WITNESS
To the Divinely-human dignity
You raise us to
In Your Beloved Ascended Jesus !
This uplifted earthen brother of ours
Now invites us to indwell His very Person
As “members one of another” !
And it is through His Spirit of Paschal Communing
That He wondrously INDWELLS
Both You, Abba ... and us !*

Christ Jesus, Enhance Our Humanity ¹,

Jesus, earthen brother to all of us,

Enhance our humanity

By allowing us to share deeply, in how You lived before Calvary :

- In Your courage in facing temptation and in Your own human limitations ;*
- In Your profound empathy, especially with those who opposed You ;*
- In the wondrous tenderness of Your compassion and forgiveness ;*
- In Your stunningly inclusive equality for all who shared Your humanity .*

Earthen brother, give us deeply receptive hearts

To respond to Your utter willingness to share with us

— Especially, Your life's all-centering reality

Of yearning to share Your relationship with Your Abba-God

... A relationship You unreservedly OPEN to each and all !

Jesus, Risen Ascended Brother to all of us,

Draw us into Your NEW, TRANSFORMATIVE HUMANITY :

— Into Your now wholly transparent cosmic vision of human nature

— Into Your stunningly inclusive INVITATION for us

To dwell in You, as You dwell in us

... Both within our spirits, and Eucharistically .

— Into Your open-hearted receptivity to the Spirit of Your Ascension

Whom, You offer us as an enabling Companion

... To LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE !

Locked Doors ... Opened Hearts ¹

*'I give up running into locked doors, O God
And now, wait for You to open them'. (Anon)*

*Abba, these "locked doors" of my life
Have been ... of your own doing,
... Of others' doing,
And, most mysteriously,
... Put in place, by You Own doing
... And kept so, Abba, until such times
As Your Love OPENS THEM
For me ... with others ... to pass through .*

*Each type of "door", but especially Your Own, Abba,
Is a door into my own heart ...
Into others' hearts ...
And, surpassingly, into Your Beloved Son's HEART
— And, thus, into YOURS, Abba !*

*Hand in hand, with the Paschal Jesus
— Heart within His —
I ... we ... are led, in the Spirit
... Into fields of freedom,
... Into visions of our NEW IDENTITY,
... Into deeper experiences of love !*

Through OPENED doors

— *Doors, mostly WITHIN US, sometimes BETWEEN US* —

We are led by the Spirit of Jesus' Own Ascension

Beyond our imprisoning fears,

Beyond the faltering of faith,

Beyond our conditional, cautious loving

... To lives lived within Jesus' LIBERATING HUMAN SPIRIT,

Opening us, to the Love of His Life

— *Yes You, O Beautiful, Bountiful Abba !*

Uplifting Us, in Jesus, in the Spirit ! ¹

Brother Jesus,

Out of the utter powerlessness of our sinning humanity ...

The depthless love of Your Surrender to Abba

DRAWS FORTH Abba's deluge of fatherly compassion for

By uplifting You ... and us-IN-You ... to Life,

Abba wholly negated death's and sin's hold on our spirits .

We are uplifted to the "incorruptible glory" of Resurrected Life, ²

And within Your now radiant humanity ... are created anew, in our spirits !

Then we are uplifted to the wondrous intimacy of Abba's Ascensional Embrace

... Both of Your New Humanity, and of our newly Divinized humanity, IN YOURS !

Then, Wonder of Wonders ...

Abba's overflowing love ENABLES US, IN YOU, JESUS,

Both to BREATHE IN the Transforming, Spirit,

And to BREATHE FORTH this Spirit of Love !

1 Poem 1293, Marian Valley monthly Retreat, May 2017.

2 From the Communion Prayer of Mondays in Eastertide.

En-Spirited within Jesus' Spacious Heart ¹

*Abba, en-Spirit us IN Jesus Ascended,
So we may en-Spirit Jesus
— In others .*

*Abba, gift us with the Spirit of Jesus
Who makes room for everyone
Within Jesus' SPACIOUS heart .*

*Abba, affirm for us, in these times of change,
How, on a daily basis ... through Jesus' Spirit,
We are to live out our personal ministries,
Of Paschal Love .* ²

1 Poem 1294, Marian Valley monthly Retreat, May 2017.

2 " For me, this is a ministry of LOVE AND PRAYER

... Praying for all who can't pray,

... Praying for all who won't pray ." Author.

Your Best Self ¹

*When fears keep your heart
from loving,
An unloving heart will really imprison
your best self.*

*When your heart is freed
to love,
A loving heart will truly free you
to be your best self.*

The Gift of Reverence ¹

Reverence is not something we incidentally choose to do :

It is the Spirit's gift to us ...

So that, what we do INWARDLY to honour God's Presence,

Is reflected OUTWARDLY in our speech and body language .

Reverence is the body language of one who loves God .

To 'reverence' Someone as wondrously loving as God,

Is "to TURN (-verto), AGAIN AND AGAIN (re-)" to God .

It is to 'focus constantly' on the Presence of God

— Wherever, whenever, the Father, Jesus Ascended and Their Spirit

Reveal Themselves in our world

... Be that through Scripture, or a kind gesture, or at a Church soup kitchen .

To reverence, is to hold in respectful awe, all that God is to us :

"Where your treasure is, there too is your heart ." ²

Such treasuring of the Divine Presence

— Especially of God's INDWELLING of persons or groups,

And outstandingly, of the Church, the embodiment of the Paschal Jesus Himself—

Deeply involves our demeanour our body language, and movements .

This is exemplified in 'signing' ourselves, and in genuflection .

Indeed, in the Presence of All-Empowering Love,

Silence ... pausing ... dignified movements ... closing our eyes ...

Are all perfectly natural HUMAN responses

— Just as bowing one's head or body IS, before the Divine,

And thus, before Jesus' Wondrous Presence in Eucharist !

*The focus and attentiveness that God's Loving Presence calls forth from us,
Makes 'joining one's hands together' a natural response in all religions .
It truly helps focus our attention on GOD'S CENTERING PRESENCE
... Centering our bodies, centering our spirits ;
Indeed, it calls to mind, HERE and NOW,
How God's is the CENTERING RELATIONSHIP of our lives !
And how truly precious, this GIFT of reverence , is !*

1 Poem 1296, Year 19 of Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community, May 2017.

Written, by request of Hendra Parish Priest, for The Parish Newsletter.

2 Mt 6:21

God's Loving Kindness, Ever-Available ¹

God's loving-kindness is ever available, ²
Across time, across space
... Wholly enfleshing itself in our world
As Jesus' Compassionate Presence .
And, as with the people of Jesus' own time,
The door to the Heaven of Abba's Heart
Still opens for us,
As Abba " rains down a Saviour, the Just One" for us ³
... Our " Bread of Life" ⁴
... Our Companionship Presence, Jesus the Son of Abba's Love !

This Jesus, crucified once, and for all,
Yet Ever-Rising in His " new humanity",
Ever-Ascending to His Father's Embrace
... Therein, becomes the Giver of the Holy Spirit to us ... ⁵
Lovingly ENSURING God's continual availability to us !
And emboldening us to share this Spirit of Divine Encounter
... This Spirit of God's Loving Kindness, with others ! ⁶

1 Poem 1297, Year 19 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2017.

2 Pope Benedict XVI laments the loss that we, the Church, experience through poor translations of key phrases and words, which, if they enter the Church's liturgy, tend not to be revised ! Such a case is God's ' loving-kindness' or ' hesed' (Hebrew) a key Covenant term, very often used especially in the Psalms, in conjunction with ' emet' (' faithfulness'). ' Hesed' in Old Testament Greek, became 'compassion' or more commonly ' eleison' (as in ' Kyrie eleison'). ' Eleison' has the clear sense of 'lament' or ' be sad' in Greek ! This, in Latin, was translated as ' misericordia' (or sad of heart') and in English as ' mercy' ! Thus, the truly beautiful tender sense of ' hesed' (God's) ' loving-kindness' was irretrievably lost ! Thus ' Christe -eleison' (' Christ have mercy' or ' Christ be sad of heart') should be, ' Christ (show your) loving-kindness ! Similarly, ' pour out your mercy on us' ought be ' pour, out your 'hesed'(loving-kindness) on us ! And ' merciful' becomes ' full of hesed i.e. full of loving-kindness'!

3 Cf Is 45:8

4 Jn 6:35

5 Eph 2:15 N.R.S.V.

6 See extended note of 2 above .

Who I Truly Am, in Your Sight ¹

Father of ALL goodness

Enable me to accept who I am,

In YOUR Light :

Not in the often self-delusionary light, of my own reasoning,

Nor in my limited understanding of BOTH my human nature,

And of my own frequently self-centering personality

... But ONLY in Your Light !

TRULY enlightened by You, may this light ... now WITHIN US

— Like a rising, but still hidden sun —

“ Shine in the sight of others, so they give THE praise ” ²

To You, O “ Father of Light ’. ³

Dearest Abba,

May my ACCEPTANCE, in Your Wondrous Light,

Of who You want me to be,

Allow me to be wholly transformed by Your Spirit of Light ⁴

— Thus enabling me to become another RADIANCE

Of Your most beloved Son !

In this way, HOW Jesus sees Himself
... As the Beloved of Abba ...
Is the PERSON I 'de-light' in being ;
And, those Jesus identifies with,
Are those with whom I identify
— The poor, the exploited, those held captive
... All those who truly KNOW THEIR NEEDED of God
And of His wondrous transformative Light !

1 Poem 1298, Year 19 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, July 2017.

2 Mt 5:16

3 Jm 1:5 4 Cf 2Cor 3:18

Group Song : ‘ Together’ * ¹

Together ... O Together !
Yes Together ... O Together !
United, as equals
... With no one, alone .

Together ... O Together !
Yes Together ... O Together !
We’ll get there, together
... Sharin’ our load .

Together ... O Together !
Yes Together ... O Together !
United, as fam’ly
... Maybe, as friends .

1 Poem 1299, Year 19 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, July 2017.

NOTE: This poem is a secular alternative to Poem 1050, [Together ... O Together](#).

* Meant to be sung ; Tune - “ Easter Parade”.

