

Thanksgiving Prayer Johnny Cash

We've come to the time in the season
When family and friends gather near
To offer a prayer of Thanksgiving
For blessings we've known through the years
To join hands and thank the Creator
And now when Thanksgiving is due
This year when I count my blessings
I'm thanking the Lord He made you

I'm grateful for the laughter of children
The sun and the wind and the rain
The color of blue in your sweet eyes
The sight of a high ball and train
The moon rise over a prairie
Old love that you've made new
This year when I count my blessings
I'm thanking the Lord He made you

And when the time comes to be going
It won't be in sorrow and tears
I'll kiss you goodbye and I'll go on my way
Grateful for all of the years
I thank you for all that you gave me
For teaching me what love can do
Thanksgiving day for the rest of my life
I'm thanking the Lord He made you

Prayer Leader:

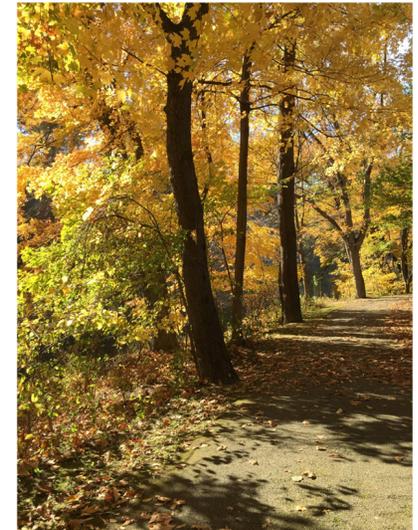
Betsy Nero
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Where
there is
no love,
put love –
and
you will
find love.



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

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Ponder: *Personal Reflections About Dorothy Day* by Jim Forest, Dr, Lynn Satterly and Kate Hennessy

A key element of the Catholic Worker movement's charism has been a quality that Dorothy Day possessed in abundance - a gift to see not only what is wrong in the world, but to see beauty and to discern signs of hope. Dorothy loved a sentence from St. Augustine in which he said, "All beauty is a revelation of God." She put it in another way to her atheist husband, Forster Batterham, "How can there be no God when there are all these beautiful things?"

She was profoundly attentive to beauty and managed to find it in places where it was often overlooked - in nature, in a piece of bread, in the smell of garlic drifting out a tenement window, in flowers blooming in a slum neighborhood, in the battered faces of people who had been thrown away by society. Dorothy saw news of the resurrection in grass battling upward toward the sky between blocks of concrete. Dorothy often used the phrase "the duty of hope." If we were to understand that theologically, it would mean always seeing everything in the light of the resurrection. To be conscious of beauty, even damaged beauty, is a hope-giving experience.

She lived passionately *for* others, considered herself rich, and died deeply grateful. Dorothy was buried in a pine box in a simple cemetery in Staten Island with the simple epitaph "friend of the poor." It is said that much of NYC, and all of the lower East Side, paused for a few hours on the day of her simple funeral. The story is told that as the casket was carried down the street in the funeral procession, a disheveled, mentally ill, homeless man burst through the crowd, which included Church and civic leaders, kissed and embraced the casket, and again disappeared into oblivion.

Much can be learned from Dorothy. Although it is not likely that any of us will make such a dramatically radical lifestyle choice, we can make a radical choice to create a world "where it is easier for people to be good". The witness of Dorothy's life left behind a road map of how to live a deeply fulfilling life with and for others...a life of Eucharist in the truest sense, a life of thanksgiving and of communion. Dorothy's life shows that when all is said and done, when all is stripped away, one of the key things that gives life meaning is people and the quality of relationship that we share with each other. We also learn from Dorothy Day that we might not always get what we *want*, but that if we live from a place of gratitude and a sense of having enough, we can ensure that everyone gets what they *need*.

Reading: A Thanksgiving Prayer Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

Lord, we thank you
for the goodness of our people
and for the spirit of justice
that fills this nation.
We thank you
for the beauty and fullness of the land
and the challenge of the cities.
We thank you for our work and our rest,
for one another, and for our homes.
We thank you, Lord:

For all that we have spoken
and for all that we keep in our hearts,
accept our thanksgiving on this day.

A few of Dorothy's favorite quotes:

"Love is the measure by which we shall be judged."

"Where there is no love, put love – and you will find love."

"Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing
compared to love in dreams."

"God understands us when we try to love."

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...