



Of Seeds and Flowers



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William R. Pfeiffer - Director

Mary's Field, Ltd. - PO Box 99 - Hebron, CT 06248 - 860.530.1253 - wisdom@marysfield.org

THE WINDOWS OF GOLD

There is a legend that has often been told
Of the boy who searched for the Windows of Gold.
The beautiful windows he saw far away
When he looked in the valley at sunrise each day.
And he yearned to go down to the valley below
But lived on a mountain that was covered with snow.
And he knew it would be a difficult trek
But that was a journey he wanted to make.
So he planned by day and he dreamed by night
Of how he could reach "The Great Shining Light."
And one golden morning when dawn broke through
And the valley sparkled with diamonds of dew.
He started to climb down the mountainside
With the Windows of Gold as his goal and his guide.
He travelled all day, and weary and worn,
With bleeding feet and clothes that were torn,
He entered the peaceful valley town
Just as the Golden Sun went down.
But he seemed to have lost his "Guiding Light",
The windows were dark that had once been bright.
And hungry and tired and lonely and cold
He cried, "Won't you show me The Windows of Gold?"
And a kind hand touched him and said, "Behold!"
High on the mountain are the "Windows of Gold."
For the sun going down in a great golden ball
Had burnished the windows of his cabin so small,
And the Kingdom of God with its Great Shining Light,
Like the Golden Windows that shone so bright
Is not a far distant place, somewhere,
It's close to you as a silent prayer,
And your search for God will end and begin
When you look for Him and find Him within. - Helen Steiner Rice

Said the Robin to the Sparrow;
"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush around and worry so."

Said the Sparrow to the Robin:
"Friend, I think it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
such as care for you and me. - Chesny

A DROP OF RAIN...A BIT OF SUN

I would like to share a story that helps to illustrate how God views a true lover. This story is inspired by a chapter in C. S. Lewis's "The Great Divorce".

A man is given the extraordinary opportunity to take a tour of heaven, guided by one of the great archangels who stands before the most high God. He sees many wonderful sights. Perhaps the most wonderful of all occurs when he walks with the archangel down a beautiful mountain path leading into a lovely valley. With the clarity of vision possible only in heaven he sees, on the mountainside opposite him, on the other side of the valley, a magnificent vision.

Slowly wending its way toward the valley, there is a huge procession of rejoicing beings. At the head of the procession he sees many cherubim, seraphim, and numerous varieties of angels singing and dancing, doing cartwheels in the air and filling the valley with their glorious chorus. To his amazement he sees that these are followed by none other than Adam and Eve, who in turn are followed by the rejoicing patriarchs, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and their spouses.

Then, singing and dancing with lutes, harps, and drums, come the great prophets of the Old Testament. Then close at hand are the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The solemn Paul of Tarsus is there dancing hand in hand with St. Stephen. Then follows the 144 martyrs of the early church, the great doctors and fathers, Jerome, Basil, Augustine, and Gregory the Great. Also present and joining in the glorious chorus are the saints of the middle ages, Bernard, Francis, Clare, and Dominic, followed by more recent holy men and women such as Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Ignatius of Loyola, Maria Goretti, and Therese of Lisieux. Then a mighty archangel walks grandly down speaking with a voice that shatters the oak trees: "My ways are not your ways, says the Lord. As far as the heavens are from the earth, so far are my ways from your ways."

Our traveler stands still in astonishment at this marvelous spectacle. Finally he sees the reason for it all. Coming down the mountainside at the very end are four of the greatest angels of the heavenly host carrying on their shoulders a golden chair wherein is seated a woman of great beauty. He turns to his angelic guide. Thinking that surely this woman must be the Blessed Mother of God, he barely manages to gasp out his question. "Is that. .. is that?" The angel laughs and replies, "No, no, that's **Molly Schultz**! You wouldn't know her. She lived in your city in shantytown. She was a scrubwoman but **she loved much**. She is one of the Great Ones here."

Holiness is in our DAILY LIFE or it is not at all. Remember how people were so surprised that Jesus came from Joseph, a simple carpenter, and Mary, a simple lady in a simple village and that Jesus did nothing spectacular in the village for 30 years. Clearly, emphatically, Jesus taught us that our goodness, our holiness resides in how we love in all of the demands, the "ups and downs", of our daily lives. The dishes, toilets, dusting, garden, shopping, laundry, job, children etc. etc. are the raw material of holiness. **Be present** to the **present** and you will discover GOD'S PRESENCE

Into the king's court every day would come a simple man, with low intelligence. Each day he would hand the king a piece of fruit. The king, indulging the man's peculiarity, would take the fruit, thank the man, and hand it over to one of his aides to be thrown away. This process went on for many years until one day, a monkey escaped from the women's harem and got into the court. As usual, the simple village man walked into the court went up to the king and offered him the fruit. This day, however, the monkey snatched away the piece of fruit, bit into it, and out fell a jewel on the floor.

The king was astonished. Turning to his side, he hollered. "There are jewels in the fruit." The aide dashed back to the area where the waste was kept. There was a huge pile of rotting, stinking fruit... and, at the bottom, glimmered a pile of jewels.

Sometimes you have to even remind a rose of its beauty. Always look past the externals and feel the heart, the beauty in the other.

VISION AND REALITY

DO THREE THINGS AND YOU WILL HAVE A 94% CHANCE OF STAYING OFF WELFARE: 1. Finish High School. 2. Don't have a child until you are 21. 3. Be married when you have your first child. What a simple and effective plan for our schools, government and social agencies to promote!

The FAMILY was the original Department of Health, Education and Welfare.



PERFECTIONIST TRAP

Perfectionists have many characteristics in common. These include wanting their work to be better than everyone else's, being competitive even in noncompetitive situations, always looking for mistakes and ways to improve, not wanting to work with others, not really being satisfied by the praise they've worked for once they get it, going to any lengths to avoid mistakes, and feeling overly ashamed by even minor mistakes. Perfectionists may also procrastinate, be judgmental, be indecisive, play it safe, be people pleasers or do one part of a task over and over until it is perfect and, in general, drive themselves crazy and, too often, others as well.

This is not praise for incompetence or sloppy performance but a request to HUG AND ACCEPT yourself in your limitations and humanness, and to say: "IT IS GOOD TO BE A PART OF THE HUMAN FAMILY AND BE COMFORTABLE IN MY OWN SKIN."

YOUR LIFE IS NOT A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED BUT A GIFT TO BE OPENED. PLEASE, SHARE YOUR GIFT WITH US!

"God is enjoying Himself and *He expects us to join Him.*" Meister Eckhart

Just for today experience yourself as THE JOY OF GOD. He does!!!

Joy is one sure sign of God's presence. You cannot fake it.

Let God establish who you are in the light of HIS JOY, HIS LOVE, not your weakness or sinfulness ! Feel it!



"Is the life I am living the same as the life that wants to live in me?"

DEFINE GOD: Pope Benedict XVI, a great theologian/philosopher, when asked said, "God is the ULTIMATE REALITY that UPHOLDS ALL REALITY." Conclusion: To be REAL, in touch with ULTIMATE REALITY, you have to be in touch with God.

CINDY'S VIDEOS, SNAFU IN THE ADDRESS IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER. SORRY! In our last newsletter I gave some Youtube addresses for the 3 wonderful videos Cindy, my wife, produced. The day after the newsletter was printed Youtube somehow deleted the addresses. The Youtube account for all three videos, 'An Easter Song', 'A Retreat with Mary' and 'Abba Father' is *simply*: **Cindy Jo Pfeiffer**. Truly worth your time and sharing!

Thank you for your continued love and support. It means so much to us! You are always putting fresh wind under our wings. On August 10th I celebrated my 80th birthday. -on May 11th, the 54th anniversary of my priesthood and, on September 7th, Cindy and I will be married for 41 years, 6 beautiful children, a wonderful daughter and son-in-law and 3 gorgeous grandchildren. Mary's Field is 35 years old. Over 29,000 people's hearts and lives touched, one way or another. Your love has been in it all! God is GOOD! Thank you!!



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Speaking Softly

"Is there anything I can do to make myself enlightened?"

"As little as you can do to make the sun rise in the morning."

"Then of what use are the spiritual exercises you prescribe?"

"To make sure you are not asleep when the sun begins to rise." -ZEN MASTER TO HIS DISCIPLE

"Start by doing what is necessary. Then do what is possible. And suddenly you are doing the impossible." St. Francis of Assisi

THE MYSTERY OF GOD - William Jennings Bryan

Have you ever observed the power of the watermelon seed? It has the power of drawing from the earth and through itself 200,000 times its own weight! When you can tell me how it takes this material and out of it colors an outside surface beyond the imitation of art, and then forms inside itself a white rind, and within that, a red heart, thickly inlaid with black seeds, each of which in turn is capable of drawing through itself 200,000 times its own weight.

When you can explain to me the mystery of the simple watermelon, then you can ask me to explain to you the mystery of God.

"Love is more active than passive, more giving than receiving, more loving than being loved. To love means to commit oneself without guarantee, to give oneself completely in the hope that our love will produce love in the loved person."

Immature love says: "I love you because I need you. **Mature love** says: "I need you because I love you.

Immature love says: "I love you because I am loved. **Mature love** says: I am loved because I love.

"A real Christian is a person who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip." Billy Graham

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