

IN THIS PLACE

Have you ever had a song that just kept playing in your head over and over all day long? In my case, the head is rather empty so the song that keeps repeating has lots of room to bounce around over and over!

Recently the group of four other men that I sing with at Mass learned a new song and ever since we practiced it over and over I have had it stuck in my head and it follows me throughout the day. Actually I have found that to be a good thing because the song is called 'In This Place', written by Victoria and Trevor Thomson, and it is about the presence of Jesus in our lives, always, in all ways.

I have found that my attitude has changed with the song playing in the background because I am constantly reminded that Jesus indeed IS truly present, always, in all ways. It is hard to fly off the handle with some knee jerk reaction when you come to the reality that Christ is right there beside you, within you, in front of you. It brings me peace and a sense of value, if you will, because I know that what I do and how I act and react throughout the day DOES matter. Christ DOES care. Jesus IS present. Life DOES have meaning.

I would be amiss if I did not quote the lyrics:

*We are all hungry people, we need shelter and strength.
We are one in our hurting, we are one in our pain.
In our suffering and sadness, we are saved by the grace
Of the power and the Spirit that is here in this place.*

The song is primarily speaking about the Mass, but it is clear to me that it goes beyond the walls of the physical Church and the moment in time that IS the Mass.

*We are gathered at table as one in the Lord.
We are gathered as people who are living the Word.
Our hearts and our spirits are nurtured by grace.
It is Jesus who fills us.
He is here in this place.*

As we prepare for the upcoming November Search, it warms my heart to see the excitement exude from that those who want to serve as Team on the weekend. The excitement comes for different reasons for the variety of people. Some are excited about gathering together as the Body of Christ and getting to spend time with peers who have similar values. Some are excited because they 'so NEED this weekend', meaning, I assume, that they want that relationship they have with Christ to be renewed or revived or reinforced or reclaimed.

The Search weekend is a beautiful opportunity for each of us to be renewed, but I feel that it is important that we do not live our Journey with Jesus only on the weekends, He is present, here in this place.....where ever we are at the time.

What a tremendous gift we have been given, the gift of the responsibility to live our lives in the Presence of Jesus, to witness to Christ's Presence by the way we live each day.

Some days are not exactly shining examples of what it means to live in the Presence of Christ, but that is where the meaning behind the words of the song comes in:

*Though the world may tell us to look at ourselves,
we reach out to another where suffering dwells.
As our hands become Christ's hands,
we are healed by the grace
of the power and the Spirit
that is here in this place.*

We ARE healed by Gods Grace. Christ IS present in our lives, I just need to allow the empty head be filled with the words of assurance of that presence and live my life accordingly.

+peace --- tom

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