

July 5, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

GOD IS NEVER FINISHED WITH US

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt From Today's First Reading

"Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him."

GENESIS 21:5

Reflection

As hard as I tried to discover a more stimulating golden thread in today's readings, the quote from Genesis would not let me go. *"Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him"* (Genesis 21:5).

As my parents aged well into their eighties, one or the other would say, *"I am just too old for this world."* This was said when life was particularly chaotic, daunting, beyond their comprehension. Sometimes, it came from fatigue after a day of endless activity. As I have grown older, I understand this sentiment. I used to hate to go to sleep at night; it seemed a waste of time. Now, there are

nights when I can hardly wait to get there.

Yet, my faith experience tells me that every day, every moment is an opportunity to encounter God -- no matter how old or young I am. Relationship with God is woven into the pattern of my days. I firmly believe that God isn't finished with me yet. While I sometimes need to shift responsibilities, act more purposefully, prudently, and discern what is mine to do, God's grace is still plentiful. There is always a new adventure awaiting me when asked to share the blessings of my presence, education, spirituality, lived experience with others.

There is much I am invited to relinquish, creating a space for the next generation. Letting go is appropriate. I continue to be called and sent to freely give of myself at every stage of life. I want to engage in relationships that are life-giving, to mentor as invited, to attend to the needs of the people of God according to the age, wisdom, grace that I have grown into. There are always new opportunities placed before me.

I am glad that I am not Abraham and Sarah at 100 plus years of age, beginning to raise a child in the ways of God. Now that is daunting! Still, no matter how old one is, giving of oneself as best as one is able is a task never finished. I am -- we are -- to be God's loving presence, to welcome God's abiding grace, and to share generously the grace of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness that the Holy Spirit places before us. Let us *REJOICE* in God's abiding love.



Path in Le Puy
Photo by Sonya Longbotham

For Pondering

- In what ways do I recognize God's ongoing invitation to give of myself today?
 - What is mine to do in all humility and grace?
 - What MORE of myself can I give away freely each new day?
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