

AECI Pentecost Reflection 2020: ‘Being ‘open’ by seeking wisdom ‘beyond’ the world’ (Sunday 31st May 2020)

In the midst of the ongoing 'coronavirus pandemic' and as we approach the holy day of Pentecost (Sunday 31st May 2020), we might take some space and time to reflect on 'the call' to each one of us to live in a mysterious relationship of communion with the Persons of the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit).

The ‘call’ has no one form. We might hear ‘the call’ through our deep connections with family and with friends, more pertinent to us than ever in these times of ‘social distancing’. The ‘call’ we might hear through our daily work patterns, upholding the value and the dignity of those we care for, those whose lives are entrusted to us. Perhaps the ‘call’ becomes more audible among the wonder and beauty of nature: the trees, the flowers, the birds and wildlife, the seaside. Perhaps, the ‘call’ is paradoxically merely a whisper, which simply says ‘now you must go beyond this moment’.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read about the early believers ‘meeting in one place, being ‘filled with the Holy Spirit’ and the same Spirit giving them ‘ability’. An ‘ability’ that was somehow hidden before, mysterious, and yet suddenly released as a force moving them forward and enabling them to go ‘beyond’. A new found ‘gear for transition’, if you will!!

So, can we respond to such a ‘call’? How should we respond? Are we 'open' to the possibilities of faith and of love, here and now? Are we 'open' to divine transforming action? Is it just too strange to comprehend? Maybe it starts merely with a commitment to our own ‘inner peace’, to let both ‘call and response’ take their spiritual course and renew our ‘abilities’ before God.

Across Europe, many people are presently torn by grief and anxiety. Our medical professionals and our key workers are exhausted. There are many challenges ahead as local communities and nations come to terms with the scale and impact of the ‘pandemic’.

Our future path may require courage and humility, a willingness to re-think and to act out of goodness and out of compassion. Above all, it will need 'the wisdom of God' to help steer our direction and renew a sense of hope.

**(PLEASE READ PASSAGE FROM ‘THE DEEPER CENTRE’ BY EVA HEYMANN ATTACHED – PAGES140-141)**

However we experience ‘the call’, we are called to be ‘open’, to step aside from 'the wisdom of the world', to listen intently to the tender human heart and to go ‘beyond’ these turbulent days.

To finish this reflection, here is a short prayer:

**A Personal Prayer:**

**Help me to be open to your Spirit in the days ahead**

**To accept You, to accept others and to accept myself in the fullness of Creation**

**So, I can act renewed with Love, speak renewed with Truth and grow in your Eternal Peace**

**In Jesus’ name**

**Amen**

*‘…nothing is commonplace, we do not live in these things,*

*we go beyond them’ (Elizabeth of the Trinity)*

*Ami Elisabeth Catez Institute 2020*