

EPICLESIS VIRTUAL CHAPTER HOUSE

Prayer and Eucharist, Thursday, May 25, 2023

Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1, Aidan Readings, May 25

Psalm 16:5-8 † 2 Kings 4:1-7 † John 4:14

Daily Reading

With new awareness, both painful and humorous, I begin to understand why the saints were rarely married women. I am convinced it has nothing inherently to do, as I once supposed, with chastity or children. It has to do primarily with distractions. The bearing, rearing, feeding and education of children; the running of a house with its thousand details; human relationships with their myriad pulls – women’s normal occupations in general run counter to creative life, or contemplative life, or saintly life.

[A] woman instinctively wants to give yet resents giving herself in small pieces. I believe that what she resents is not so much giving herself in pieces as giving herself purposelessly. What we fear is not so much that our energy may be leaking away through small outlets as that it may be going “down the drain.” Purposeful giving is not as apt to deplete one’s resources: it belongs to that natural order of giving that seems to renew itself even in the act of depletion. The more one gives, the more one has to give – like milk in the breast.

--Anne Morrow Lindbergh, *Gift from the Sea*

Meditation

The problem is: how to remain in the midst of the distractions of life; how to remain balanced, no matter what centrifugal forces tend to pull one off center; no matter what shocks come in at the periphery and tend to crack the hub of the wheel There is no easy answer, no complete answer. I have only clues – shells from the sea

One cannot collect all the beautiful shells on the beach. One can collect only a few; and they are more beautiful if they are few. My life at home, I begin to realize, lacks this quality of significance, and therefore of beauty, because there is so little empty space. The space is scribbled on; the time has been filled. There are so few empty pages in my [calendar], or empty hours in the day, or empty rooms in my life in which to stand alone and find myself. Too many activities, and people, and things. Too many worthy activities, valuable things and interesting people. For it is not merely the trivial that clutters our lives, but the important as well. We can have a [surplus] of treasures and excess of shells – where one or two would be significant.

--Celtic Daily Prayer, May 26; Anne Morrow Lindbergh, *Gift from the Sea*