

InTouch



***Christ led,
Christ fed,
Hope filled!***

Priority One

Creating a Culture of
Vocations

Priority Two

Strengthening Faith
Formation in Family Life

Priority Three

Building Parishes with Living
Stones

**Renew Faith,
Nurture Hope,
Discover Love**

**EPISCOPAL DELEGATE
FOR RELIGIOUS**

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Surprise is a name of God.

-David Steindl-Rast, OSB

When I ran across this quote quite a few years ago, I smiled and wrote it down to remember it. I happened upon it again last week and laughed. Indeed, our God is a God of surprises. I don't know about you but living during a pandemic and lock-down is surely a very unexpected surprise!

Again while on retreat with Fr. Sturtz, he brought up all the surprises we have experienced during our religious lives. Too many to count and some that I could never have imagined!

I take so much for granted that God's *surprises* wake me up at times to all that he has put into my life. It reminds me that, as much as I may have things planned out, I'm not the one in charge!

I want to say "yes" to all the of the Lord's surprises. But I have to admit that it seems a bit risky at times. Nevertheless, I look forward to see what surprises God has up his sleeve moving forward. I trust that they will all be life-giving and loving. I pray to be able to listen deeply with my heart to God's heart and know that *love* is also God's name. So it becomes surprises from *Love*. How exciting...and challenging!

What about you? How has God surprised you?

*God
reveals himself
through
Surprises.
Allow yourself
to be surprised by
God.*

-Pope Francis



**Diocese
of
Ogdensburg**



Musings

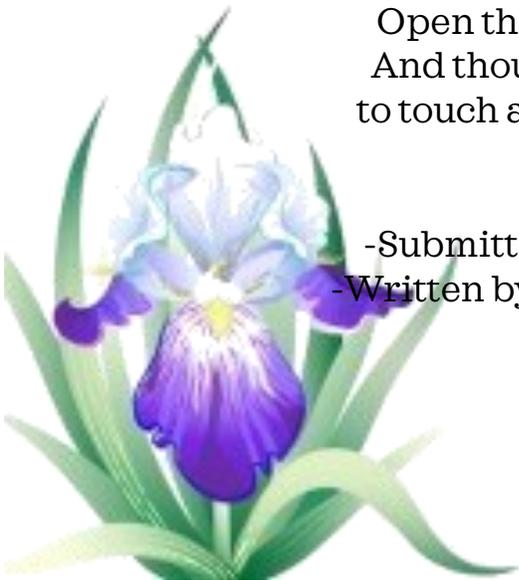
LOCKDOWN

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighborhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way



All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul.
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

-Submitted by Sr. Cindy Sullivan
-Written by Richard Hendrick, OFM



Please consider sending me your thoughts about the past few months for the next newsletter. How did you pass the time? How did you handle this surprise from God? Any other "surprises"?



FYI

The Diocesan Jubilee celebration is scheduled for September 20th. However, if we are not able to gather at that time, I believe that it will be rescheduled.

RIP

Sister Donna Jean Tavernier, GNSH who died on February 13th. Besides being a native of Ogdensburg, Sr. Donna Jean also spent some years ministering in our Diocese at St. Mary's in Potsdam, as well as at St. Joseph's Nursing Home. She was also an adjunct professor at SUNY Potsdam.

Shirley Prevo, Sr. Debbie Blow's mother who died unexpectedly on March 21st in Florida.

Sister Roberta Southwick, SA who died very unexpectedly on May 13th. Sister Roberta was a native of our Diocese having been born in Ogdensburg and raised in the area.

Sr. Mary Patrick Murphy, SSJ who died May 4. A native of Canton, Sr. Patrick spent many years in education both at the high school level and college. She also ministered for many years in the Diocesan Tribunal office.

Sr. Catherine Laboure Goodbout, SSJ who died on May 29th. Sr. Catherine, a native of Canton who was 102, taught in various schools in the Diocese. She also did parish ministry after retiring in AuSable Forks.

Audrey Ulsamer, Sr. Diane Marie Ulsamer's mother, who died on June 3 in Willamsport, PA.