 **November 10th – Holy Family Catholic Community**

*“If thank you is the only prayer that we ever utter – and we say it sincerely – then it will have been sufficient.”* – **Meister Eckhart**

This evening, we’ll sing *Everything is Grace.* One of our deep hopes is that we not only sing this together heartily, but that we also *take this song to heart* – so much so that we might have the temerity to imagine that Everything Is Full of Grace – including ourselves!

 **Accident or Gift?**
*If* Gift; *Then* Grace IS the THE Gift. Grace is the verb of God. Grace is the word we use to inadequately declare the mystery that there is something rather than nothing; that Life is meaningful rather than absurd; that there are endless Adventures to be embarked on. Thus our holy and treacherous privilege this year is to explore, experience, risk, delight in and celebrate the Gift of Grace.

 **Catholicism is Grace … Mediation … sacrament**
– **Pat McGrath S.J.**

Grace: The verb of God – The part of God that is desperate to get to us, to connect with us, to enter into communion – Holy Communion – with us.

“God is God – I am not – And ALL is Grace.” – **Karl Rahner**
“Greatest Gift is a portion of thyself.” **– Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Mediation: Catholic imagination suggests that we cannot ‘main line’ God as it were – The DNA of God is mediated to us through the material world – through the incarnation. A ‘sacramental mediator’ is any person, place, thing, event, encounter that mediates grace to us.

sacrament: Any moment when God is successful; any moment when we receive, take in, ingest a bit of God. Any moment when we welcome the Gift of God – the Gift of Grace. A sacrament is a FELT experience of God’s presence.

 **The Holy Rhythm** of Grace, Mediation, sacrament is our destiny; it’s where our pilgrimage is taking us

* “The fact that you are not yet dead is not sufficient proof that you are alive.”
**– Brother David Steindl-Rast**
* “Are you breathing just a little and calling it a life?” **– Mary Oliver**
* “The greatest challenge facing human beings is to stay alive as long as you are breathing.” **– Jack Shea**
* “I came so that you might have life and have it to the full.” – **Jesus, son of Mary**

 **Relationship – sacraments and Sacraments**

While all of life is sacramental – rife with Grace, upon reflection we can identify and anticipate that certain moments, experiences, eras will be *dense* with grace – when grace is particularly *concentrated.* The Church has developed rituals to celebrate, support and accompany her people during these moments of dense grace. Thus, the 7 Sacraments.

 **Grace: Mercy AND Transformation**“I don’t know much about the mystery of Grace – I do know that She meets us where we are; and, She doesn’t leave us where She found us.” **– Anne LaMott**

 **Attention – Now. Here. This**

* “We become what we Pay Attention to” – **David Whyte**
* “I had the experience but missed the meaning.” – **T.S Eliot**
* “The soul exists and is built entirely out of attentiveness.” – **Mary Oliver**
* When Jesus said: “Do you have eyes but see; ears but not hear?”
There is a good chance he was not using his “inside” voice!
* Quintessential task of our pilgrimage:
Recognize – Name – Give Thanks For – Celebrate – a Tell the Stories of Grace!

**Adventures in Grace Prompts:**

* I received the sacrament of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mediated by \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* I witnessed the sacrament of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ given to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mediated by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Hail Mary Full of Grace --- Hail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Full of Grace.
* Where’s the Grace? – Where’s the Grace? – Where’s the Grace?
* Oh My God(ness)

 **Renew My Church**

"Never doubt that a **small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world**. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." – **Margaret Meade**

The Corinthians: Average number of people in the communities that Paul wrote to was 40!

**In search of sacraments?**God is Love and Beauty; Joy; Delight; Trust; Intimacy; Rest; Confidence; Accomplishment; Hope; Forgiveness; Ease; Surprise; Wonder; Challenge; Truth-Telling; New Beginnings; Warmth; Adventure; Sensuousness; Healing; Nourishment; Solace; Reprieve; Exertion; Being Acknowledged, Noticed – SEEN; Extravagance; Vitality; Provocation; Risk; Freedom; Belonging; Grief; Remorse; Awe; Humility; Passion; Kindness; Recognition; Courage; Peace; Affection; Gratitude; Life-Giving Sexuality; Risk; Affirmation; Presence; Silence; Compassion; Innocence; Energy; Laughter Without Constraint – Weeping Without Constraint, Redemptive Suffering; Tenderness; Play and Playfulness; A Wake Up Call; A Second Chance; Generosity; The Experience of Being Heard – Listened to; Mercy; Righteous Anger; Communion – Holy Communion

**Amen**