

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Spiritual Reflection from Father Charles Puthota

October 16, 2022



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

LET GOD BE GOD

Oh you who could not put one star in motion,
Who could not build one mountain out of earth,
Or trace the pattern of a single snowflake
Or understand the miracle of birth.

Presumptuous mortal
Who cannot alter the universe in any way,
Or fashion one small bud, release one raindrop
Or toss one cloud into a sunny day.

Oh earthling who can never paint a sunset
Or cause one dawn to shine.
Oh puny man
Who cannot create a single miracle,
How dare you doubt the only one who can.

Author Unknown

Reflection: We human beings have a tendency to declare independence from God, to rebel against Him. In the story of creation, we see this trend starting already with our first parents Adam and Eve. This trend of rebellion, which is sin, is not what we express so much in words as in deeds, in the way we live our lives. We try to manage as if God did not matter. Since God dwells deep within us, declaring independence from God would amount to declaring independence from ourselves, which is a logical absurdity. How can we rebel against ourselves and still keep our sanity? Cutting off God would amount to cutting ourselves off. Keeping God out would thus be at our great peril.

All religions speak of how intimately we are connected with God. In fact, we are closer to God than we are to ourselves. God is the ground of our being, our foundation, our *raison d'être*. Jesus speaks time and again about how we have to remain in him as he and his Father remain in us. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches. How can the branches live without being connected with the vine? Didn't Jesus say: "I'll be with you always, even to the end of time?" How can we assume, then, that he is not with us? Are we not the temples of the Holy Spirit?

One of the ways we rebel against God is by assuming that we know better than God. We are eager to dictate terms to God. We go about pretending that we are God. We act as if we were God. We feel and think we can be self-sufficient without God's grace and presence. In other words, we like to assume the role of God. It is time we realized that God is God and we are His creation, totally dependent on His love and gifts. It would be appropriate for us to acknowledge the omnipotence and omniscience of God, to understand that His abiding presence in us is what makes us live and flourish.

God's presence and power are revealed in the miracles all around us, constantly surrounding us. We have to only look at ourselves and others and the world of nature to recognize the daily miracles God is working for us. We can listen to God in and through these miracles of life and nature. We can grow to respect God's ways and learn what God wants us to do for Him and one another. We can, as Thomas Aquinas suggested, move from creation to the Creator. Because of God's presence resplendent in the universe, we can come to place an abundance of faith in Him, who fashions and ordains everything.

Action: Place your hand in the hand of God and let Him lead you. Place your heart in the heart of God and let Him love you. Place your mind in the mind of God and let Him enlighten you. Trust in His providence and ways. Go back over your life the last five or ten years and see how God has led and protected you. But for Him, you wouldn't have --- couldn't have --- carried on with your life. You didn't recognize Him then, but now you do. Go over people and events the last few years or so and recognize the daily miracles God has been placing before your eyes. Grow in a sense of wonder for what God does for you on a daily basis. You be you. Let God be God.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota