



A Moment with Our Minister

“When I pick up a person from the street hungry, I give that person a plate of rice, a piece of bread; they have been satisfied. I have removed that hunger. But a person who is shut out, who feels unwanted, unloved, terrified; the person who has been thrown out from society — that poverty is so full of hurt and so unbearable, I find that very difficult. So let us always meet each other with a smile. For the smile is the beginning of love. And once we begin to love each other naturally we want to do something.”

-Mother Teresa, 1979 Nobel Peace Prize address

As Easter people, we are invited, no - called, to love one another as Christ loves us. How more natural can that be? Yet, we live in a world divided by ideologies, economics, politics, color, culture, and the list goes on. Where's the love that Mother Theresa spoke of more than three decades ago?

The news media would have us believe that this is the world today: divided and hate-filled. Yet the media does not capture much of the Good News . . . Doctors Without Borders, The Peace Corps—(other than when they are killed), Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, JOB, Survivors of Torture, Soroptimist, and thousands upon thousands of other organizations (not to mention all the individuals) that reach out, touch, and change the lives of millions around the world for better.

Jesus, in one of his many addresses to the people of his day, spoke to Pharisee and disciple alike, stating—as recorded in John 10: “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there must be one flock, one shepherd.”

As Easter people, we are invited, no—called, to follow the Christ, laying down our own lives in the many opportunities presented to us, to bring together all people—even those who don't belong to our “fold,” supporting them, embracing them, loving them—naturally, as Christ does.

It's Eastertide, and we are Easter people. May we all smile at the world with our hearts and hands and voices, singing and living the Alleluias of our Faith!

—Paula