

August 9, 2022

An Encouraging Word

Yesterday was the feast of St. Dominic. He was a contemporary of St. Francis and the founder of the Order of Preachers, which are better known as the Dominicans. So, it was especially poignant to receive a message from a Dominican nun who works with NGO's at the United Nations. Her name is Sister Dusty and she reads the Haiti Journal every day and often writes to me. What follows is what she wrote in response to yesterday's Journal:

When I see the photos of the children at your Center, I say Thank You God for you. It so wonderful to see children happy, and enjoying learning and all you are providing for them. You are truly an Oasis for them in Haiti. What a Blessing.

The NGO's I'm working with here in New York for the last two weeks prepared a letter that was she to all the member state ambassadors and to the Special Rapporteur's on Education. Water and Sanitation, Health, Children and Conflict. We gathered some incredible eye witness testimonies as well and sent them to the Member States and Special Rapporteurs in hopes that there will be a more robust positive response to the people of Haiti.

Keep up the great work you are doing at SCC you are so needed.

Blessings

Sr. Dusty

Sister Durstyne Farnan, OP
Dominican Leadership NGO

This was my response to her.

Thank you for your kind and encouraging words of support. I greatly appreciate it.

I am going to share your message with the SCCC board of directors. So much more needs to be done yet the skyrocketing prices of virtually everything might mean we must cut back our services.

May I have your permission to use some or all of what you wrote in tomorrow's Journal. Having a supportive voice from inside the UN is an important aid in raising awareness of the importance and effectiveness of our humble ministry of service to abandoned kids.

Peace and blessings,

Gerry

Difficult to See

On Saturday Baby accompanied her mother to a hospital outside of Port-au-Prince. They travel on a series of tap-taps. She spent the night in the hospital with her mom. The gave mom some medication and they returned to P-a-P on Sunday. Baby told me that on Saturday she saw the

remains of a person who had been burned to death by a gang. It really disturbed her. This is the unseen agony of daily life in Haiti...seeing things that are difficult to see. In the last two years, I've seen at least five corpses on the street...and many more videos of people who have been shot or mutilated. One victim was shot in the parking lot of a store he managed, a store I have frequently shopped at.

Holy Listening

All of the following quotations came from a weekly summary of Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations from the week of July 24-29, 2022.

"Jesus says people who live the vulnerable life of connection and relationship will bear much fruit. These are the people we trust, like, and admire. And yet so many of us are afraid to be the very thing that we admire the most." —Richard Rohr

"Compassion and dialogue are essentially vulnerable positions. If we are into control and predictability, we will seldom descend into the vulnerability of undefended listening or the scariness of dialogue." —Richard Rohr

"Listening does not grant the other side legitimacy. It grants them humanity—and preserves our own." —Valarie Kaur

"Perhaps one of the most precious and powerful gifts we can give another person is to really listen to them, to listen with quiet, fascinated attention, with our whole being, fully present."
—Kay Lindahl

"To listen closely, with every fibre of our being, at every moment of the day, is one of the most difficult things in the world, and yet it is essential if we mean to find the God whom we are seeking." —Esther de Waal

"If something comes toward us with grace and can pass through us and toward others with grace, we can trust it as the voice of God." —Richard Rohr

Dreadful Road

Yesterday, Gabens and Michel hit the road to fill up the propane gas tanks while Steph and I headed for a store for needed supplies. The store was located on "kidnap alley," which passes the US Embassy. The road leading to it traverses a very poor area. The streets leading into the road are all dirt roads that run downhill. After a few nights of rain, a ton of mud and trash washed down onto the road. The road looked dreadful. The piles of mud and trash caused traffic jams. To add to the fun the temperature topped 100 degrees. Ugh.