

QUOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Inspirational quotes and reflections for your use.



Ruinas de Copan, Honduras.

Blessed are the poor in Spirit; the Kingdom of heaven is theirs (Matthew 5:3).

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine *(by coming together, people live)*
- Séanfhocail

A community is alive when it is poor and its members feel they have to work together and remain united, if only to ensure that they can all eat tomorrow!
- Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche Community.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere... whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.
- Martin Luther King Jnr.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet (*John 13:14*).

But it is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing. That cannot be of God. God's will is that all his children be happy.

- *Archbishop Oscar Romero.*

Live slowly, think slowly, for time is a mystery.
Never forget that love requires always
that you be the greatest person you
are capable of being.

Be grateful for the manifold
dreams of creation
and the many ways of unnumbered peoples.

Be grateful for life as you live it
and may a wonderful light
always guide you on the unfolding road.

- *From Ben Okri, An African Elegy, (Vintage, 1997).*

In a place in Dublin I visited an old man whom nobody seemed to know existed. I saw his room; it was in a terrible state, I wanted to clean it, but he kept on saying: "I'm alright." I didn't say a word, yet in the end he allowed me to clean his room. There was beautiful lamp in that room covered in the dirt of many years. I asked him: "Why do you not light the lamp?" "For whom?" he asked. "Nobody comes to me; I do not need the lamp." I asked him: "will you light the lamp if I send a sister to see you." "Yes," he said, "if I hear a human voice, I will do it." The other day he sent me word: "Tell my friend that the light she has lighted in my life is still burning."

- *Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, A Gift for God: Prayers and Meditations, (Harper San Francisco, 1996).*



Mayan Women washing their Laundry, Guatemala.

At the end a big fellow, whose fearful looks could have inspired fear, told me: “come to my house, I have something to honour you.” I remained uncertain, not knowing whether to accept or not, but the priest who was accompanying me said: “Go with him, father, the people are very good.” I went to his house, which was a half-falling shack. He made me sit. From where I was seated the sun could be seen as it was setting. The fellow said to me: “Señor, you see how beautiful it is!” And we remained silent for some minutes. The sun disappeared. The man added: “I did not know how to thank you for all that you have done for us. I have nothing to give you, but I thought you would like to see this sunset. It pleased you, didn’t it? Good evening.” He then gave me his hand. As I was leaving, I thought: “I have met very few hearts that are so kind.”

- *Pedro Arrupe, One Jesuit's spiritual journey : autobiographical conversations with Jean-Claude Dietsch, (Institute of Jesuit Sources, 1982).*

Hope means to keep living
amid desperation
and to keep humming
in the darkness.
Hoping is knowing that there is love,
it is trust in tomorrow
it is falling asleep
and waking again
when the sun rises.
In the midst of a gale at sea,
it is to discover land.
In the eyes of another
it is to see that you are understood....

As long as there is still hope
There will also be prayer....
And you will be held in God's hands.

- *Henri Nouwen, With Open Hands, (Ave Maria Press, 1995).*



Sunset behind Concepcion.

Come, O life-giving Creator,
and rattle the door latch
of my slumbering heart.
Awaken me as you breathe upon
a winter-wrapped earth,
gently calling to life virgin Spring.

Awaken in these days of Lenten prayer and discipline
my youthful dream of holiness.
Call me forth from the prison camp
of numerous past defeats
and my narrow patterns of being
to make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,
through the passion of my love.

- *Edward M. Hays, Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim: A Personal Manual for Prayer and Ritual, (Forest of Peace Publishing, 1988).*

On the Sunday before the feast, known now as Palm Sunday, the Roman Governor, Pontias Pilate, rode into Jerusalem, seated on his magnificent horse, along with a large garrison of cavalry and foot soldiers. People would have come out to witness the pageantry of it: thousands of soldiers with weapons, golden eagles mounted on poles, the beating of drums...

On Palm Sunday Jesus also entered Jerusalem, from the other side of the city, seated on a donkey. This was not a coincidence; this procession was planned in advance and carefully thought out.

The Reign of Jesus was to be a reign of peace that would banish chariots, war horses and battle bows; this reign would be from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. Jesus intended his procession – which today we would call a ‘counter-demonstration’ – to contrast the two reigns, the Reign of God and the reign of Caesar, two very different visions of life on earth.

- *Peter Mc Verry SJ, Jesus: Social Revolutionary? (Veritas, 2008)*

Alleluia!
Praise! Praise God in the temple
in the highest heavens
Praise! Praise God's mighty deeds
and noble majesty

Praise! Praise God with trumpet blasts,
with lute and harp.
Praise! Praise God with timbrel and dance,
with strings and pipes.

Praise! Praise God with crashing cymbals,
with ringing cymbals.
All that is alive, praise. Praise the Lord.
Alleluia!

(Psalm 150)

Poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity... It means not having enough to feed and cloth a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and the exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.

- *UN Statement, June 1998 – signed by the heads of all UN agencies.*

... all of us, though there are so many of us, make up one body in Christ, and as different parts we are all joined to one another (Romans 12:4-5).

Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith (Col 2:7).



San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua.

I have called you friends . . . this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you (John 15:9-12).

We should love not only with words, but concretely, with facts; and we should love one another. My dear children, if you do this, if we all do this, universal brotherhood will spread, solidarity will blossom, goods will be distributed more justly, and the rainbow of peace will shine over the world, the world which, in a few years, will be in your hands.

- Chiara Lubich, Founder of the Focolare Movement.

When we learn to see life through the eyes of a child - that is when we become truly wise.

- Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Easter Rap

I thank God because he gave me life
Now I'm in the right lane
Everyday I pray
To see a brighter day
Because he took my sins away
That's why I say:
Jesus is my light
Jesus is my hope
Jesus is the rock
I tie myself on to. Alleluia!!!

- *Easter Rap (Precious John/P-Starz)*



Lake Atitlan, Guatemala.

Easter Blessings

Alleluia!

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad!

We have travelled the Lenten Road with you, O Lord,
Carrying your cross up the hill, together.
Some stopped along the way to help with the burden,
Others wiped your face,
We wept at your feet,
And argued for your clothes.
Someone gave you a drink while
Others hung beside you on their own crosses.
We denied you too,
And pierced your side,
But laid you in a tomb and
Waited for the morning.

Now that morning has come,
Together we join,
In communion with the risen you,
Because you have come to save us all.
Now we will tell your story as our story,
Through our words and our actions
As we work for a lasting peace,
And quell the thirst for justice in our world.

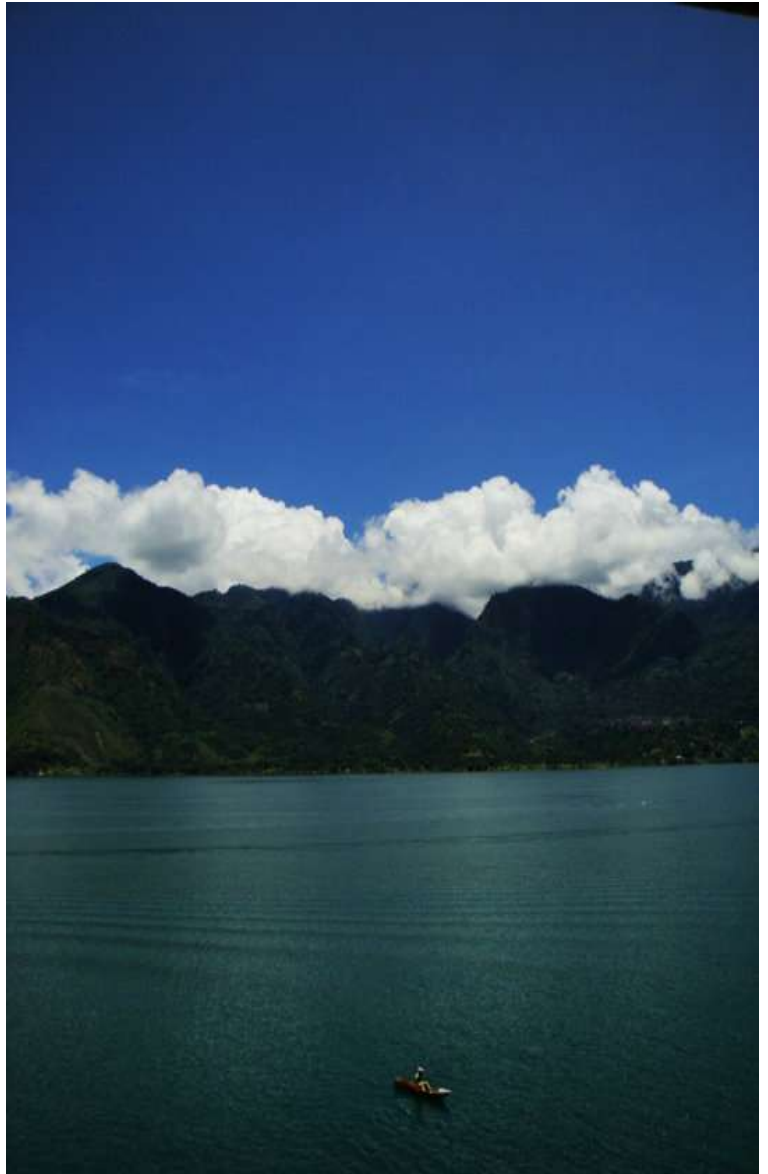
Amen.

- *Trócaire 2011*

A community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings.
You, the people, must give it this soul.

- *John Paul II*

Behind the struggle for justice,
hearts beat,
people hurt,
help arrives,
support grows
hope blossoms
strength builds
victories come
change happens.
- *Trócaire.*



Lake Atitlan, Guatemala.

Photos by Rahme Veziroglu, 2010.