

SECURITY

Security is trusting in what is safe, true and dependable, while having a healthy respect for genuine danger to ensure peace of mind.

We are all searching for a secure path of life and those of us who have reached the stage of responsible adulthood hope to provide and lead those young people entrusted to our care to a secure way of life. (Psalms 16,23,27,91). We all realize, too, that life is not completely shatter-proof. Another perspective on life is to recognize there will be rough, challenging tasks in life. After totally unexpected, soul-shattering tragedies that occur randomly and through no fault of ours – how then can we be secure? Building strong personal character and developing solid relationships with trustworthy, faithful family members, friends and mentors will fortify our sense of security.

“A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance their worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as one who reveres God finds; For whoever reveres God behaves accordingly and your friend will be like yourself.” (Sirach 6: 16-17)

Most importantly the blessing of spiritual bonds of faith, rooted in a personal relationship with God and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is a priceless gift. I'm reminded of the tender passage in Winnie the Pooh: Piglet and Pooh are walking into the sunset. Piglet comes along side Pooh. Piglet says, “Pooh?” “Yes, Piglet?” “Oh, nothing”, responds Piglet (taking Pooh's paw). “I just wanted to be sure of you.” How precious is the gift of a loyal friend. We can never underestimate the value of a strong Faith Community especially in times of adversity. Brothers and Sisters in Christ. “That's what friends are for,” as the pop song goes.

Scripture reminds us that security begins at birth:

Lord, I am not proud,
holding my head too high,
racing beyond my grasp.

No, I am calm and tranquil
like a weaned child
resting in its mother's arms:
my whole being at rest.

Let Israel rest in the Lord,
now and for ever.
(PS. 131)

St. Paul often makes reference to the strength of the house churches and their influence, especially in 2 Timothy 1:3-7, making specific mention of Timothy's grandmother, Lois and mother, Eunice.

The power of Christ activated in each disciple encompasses even our weaknesses and failures. The Word of God is replete with proclamations of God's Mercy, Healing and Forgiveness. (Note: Psalm 103, Ephesians 3:14-19, Colossians 1:11-14) Our security is founded on a belief that God will support us through our own personal Way of the Cross.

The metaphor of the Two Foundations (Mt. 7:24-29 and Lk 6:46-49) could not make the importance of security in faith and morals any clearer. History, literature, the arts and our own personal experiences illustrate so consistently that heroic actions and random acts of kindness are the fruit of security in one's inner self. Perhaps this reflection only serves to make us more aware of this truth.

Allow me to conclude with a prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours offered each year on the occasion of recognizing the great heart of Jesus, the Word of God, and the tremendous love that flowed from His Heart.

Your love is beyond our understanding,
O Christ. You hold us in loving regard and
cherish our tears. You are like a mother who
tenderly cradles her child against the pain
and suffering of life. May your love poured
out so freely upon us flow through us to
all in need of mercy. Fill our hearts with your
great love. Amen.
(Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas)

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