

Folio Forty-Two

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**meant to be sung*

Within Suffering ¹

Seek neither to tolerate, nor over-examine,

Or move beyond ... your suffering ;

Invite Jesus INTO your suffering

– Not from outside of it,

But from WITHIN its very centre :

Because the Pierced One

Dwells HERE

Eternally

... For, in the depths of His death,

The God of Compassion FILLED our deepest suffering

With His Presence !

Divine Dreaming – Now ¹

*While God's dream for us is beautied forth
In the splendours of Creation,
And in the wondrous unseen glories of Jesus, the New Creation,
It is the more tangible transformations
Witnessed within the Eucharistic life of the faithful
That, most luminously,
Reveals the passion of Divine Dreaming
For us !*

¹ Poem 821, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Eastertide, May 2007.

Breathers of Your Spirit ^{* 1}

We are daughters of You, Abba

We are sisters to Our Lord

We are breathers of Your Spirit

We are truly Yours, O Love !

Yes, we're sons of You, O Abba

We are brothers to Our Lord

We are breathers of Your Spirit

We are truly Yours, O Love !

Yes, we're children of You, Abba

We are family to Our Lord

We are breathers of Your Spirit

We are truly Yours, O Love !

1 Poem 822, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 1

*Meant to be sung – to the tune, O King of Might and Splendour.

Composed on the way to my yearly retreat.

Being Saved For ¹

*“You do not BELONG to the world
Because my choice WITHDREW you from the world.” (Jn 15:19)*

*Christ’s ‘withdrawing’ us
Is to SAVE US FROM ... the world.
This choice of Christ
– Very personalized as it is –
Gives us, gives me, the POWER TO BE FREE –
Of the world’s allurements of greed, of lust, and of power
... Of the tightening coils of its fickle, random destructive energies
... Of being HELD FAST by its seductions and addictions.
Enmeshed THUS, we are UNFREE
Effectively, unable to exercise more truly humanizing choices
... Like those Jesus made.*

*This sense of being SAVED FROM ... the world,
Seems to run counter to that Christian perspective
That seeks to ENGAGE the world :
That is eager, to respond to its challenges,
That strains to be fully involved in others’ life situations
... For the sake of the Gospel’. ²*

A more prudent, tested spirituality would CAUTION

That the Gospel requires us

'To be IN the world, but not OF it'.³

Jesus insists that it is the world

That He is SAVING US FROM

... With the sense also,

That we are BEING SAVED FOR a surpassingly better reality :

'I want those You have given me, TO BE WHERE I AM ...⁴

Abba, may they be one IN US,

As You are in me, and I am in You !"⁵

Thus Jesus' heart's desire is that ...

We enter into that WONDROUS RELATIONSHIP

He shares with Abba !

Jesus is simply guarded, about engaging the world.

Innocent Lamb that He is, but knowing human hearts,

He is never blasé about the world.

While lovingly attentive to humanity's deep neediness,

He is mindfully sensitive to its enticements,

To its empty promises, its half-truths, and its intolerance of innocence.

*Thus, before sending HIS DISCIPLES into the world,
He asks that the Father
“Sanctify them”⁶
... KEEP those You have given me, true to Your name”.⁷
To this, Jesus adds, in a deeply personal and solemn pledge
“For their sake I consecrate myself!”⁸
And, lest we falter, He reassures us ...
“Be brave,
I have conquered the world!”⁹
Thus, if we are ever open to God’s grace,
In facing the world ...
God’s grace WILL win the day
... Hidden though that may be, at times.*

1 Poem 823, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 2.

2 St. Paul

3 Ancient Church axiom 4 Jn 17:24

5 Jn 17:21

6 Jn 17:17 (N.R.S.V.)

7 Jn 17:11

8 Jn 17:19

9 Jn 16:13

Jesus' Choice ¹

‘It was not you who chose me,

But I who chose you’

(Jn 15:16)

Jesus' choice runs counter to our 21st Century first world perspective.

Self-choice is of CENTRAL importance to this world ;

We tend to jealously guard our freedoms –

Of speech, of association, of life style choices.

Moreover, Jesus' choice also runs counter

Ironically,

To our current evangelical ‘group-speak’;

Here, we insist, that to be an authentic witness,

We need –

To be self-directed,

To be open to all peoples,

To be true to our life-choices.

Yet,

In the most important matter of all,

How to witness to others, about how we relate to God,

Jesus tell us, quite unambiguously,

That OUR choice

Is not the initiating or primary choice !

*His idea that someone else
Can GIVE US our DESTINY
Amounts to heresy in our modern understanding of personhood,
Such that, a personal destiny that is not self-initiated,
Clearly diminishes one's authenticity,
And has others questioning our personal integrity !*

*Jesus insists
That HE
Is the template
... Of who we are
... Of our IDENTITY :*

"Love one another, AS I HAVE LOVED YOU".²

Jesus claims that He is also the template of what we will do with our lives,

That is ... of our DESTINY :

*"Those who love me, will be true to my word,
And Abba will love them, and we will come to them,
And make OUR DWELLING PLACE with them."³*

Both our identity and destiny, are HIS choices, not OURS !

*This is not only counter-intuitive,
But, in our modern consciousness, counter-commonsense :
We are abrogating responsibility for ourselves
To another !*

Thus Jesus presents us, often with a stark choice :

Choose Him,

Or ourselves !

And ... if both choices coalesce into a unity,

How pleasantly Blessed we shall be !

Thus, with every aspect of our lives

That draws forth the prospect of a choice from us,

We can confidently IDENTIFY WITH Jesus Ascended,

... Saying "Not my will, but Yours be done" ⁴

In our surrender to Abba, our true HOME, and DESTINY.

1 Poem 824, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007. Day 2.

2 Jn 15:12 3 Jn 14:23 (I.B.) 4 Lk 22:43

The Submissive One ¹

In calling me to suffer with Jesus

—That is, in my THIRSTING for God's Presence, FOR OTHERS —

Abba is asking me to SACRIFICE

Any sense of my own IDENTITY.

Abba calls me to be :

the unsatisfied one

the restless one

the yearning one

the incomplete one

the unfulfilled one

the open-hearted one

And, above all

the submissive one.

In this last, I am to submit all MY needs

To the deeply longed-for singular NEED

Of ALL who indwell my spirit in Christ

— To their DESIRE

For Fellowship with Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit !

This GRACE OF SUBMISSION, means –

Submitting to Calvary

Submitting to Resurrection

Submitting to Ascension

Submitting to the Gift of the Spirit

... So as to share Christ's wondrous unifying experience

Of sharing this Spirit with All !

Hearts, Enlivened Together ¹

– *A reflection on Acts 1:12-14*

“Then they returned ... as well as His brothers” –

The wonder was still in their voices,

As together,

They moved through the olive trees

Down into the Kedron Valley.

The wonder was overflowing their hearts,

As, in hushed tones, they related

How they stood, still staring into the sky,

As they witnessed Jesus “BEING LIFTED UP” ²

And the “CLOUD WITHDREW HIM” from their sight ³

... Into the Divine dimension of Mystery !

They were NOT a collection of people –

Refusing to leave the site of the Ascension, as if in denial ;

Giving way to a sense of helplessness, because of their loss ;

Distracting themselves in a flurry of activities ;

Returning aimlessly to their old lives, each going their own way ;

Or trying to outdo each other psychologically, to prove their anguish ...

No !

The Spirit of Jesus

Was with them ...

Stirring them, prompting them, inviting them into faith TOGETHER !

*They left the place of the Ascension, neither reluctantly or aimlessly ;
They walked together to the city, firm in purpose, specific as to their goal ;*

And they went to the Upper Room, where Jesus had directed

“Do this in my memory”.⁴

They were a representative group :

His chosen eleven, His Mother Mary, some male relatives, some women disciples.

They “ALL JOINED IN”⁵

*... Encouraging each other with their shared trust in Jesus,
... Gently re-including any with impulses towards individualism,
... And especially, drawing each other into fellowship.*

Furthermore, all joined in “continuous prayer” :⁶

– Theirs being a faith response to the “Abba-God”

Of Jesus’ own life of prayer and preaching

... To Him, of whom Jesus said, “Abba and I are one”,⁷

– Theirs was an ongoing prayer, a PROCESS of prayer

... Both copying Jesus’ own habitual pattern of praying

... And responding to His direction to “Pray always”;⁸

– Theirs was a love-filled response of DEVOTED FRIENDS

... Who were obviously experiencing, a NEW sense of His Presence

ALIVE WITHIN THEIR GROUP

Especially, as they prayed TOGETHER.

It was no wonder their prayer was continuous

... Because His Vitalizing Presence began –

To seep into their lives as a group,

To give a pattern to their feelings,

To give a pattern to their daily choices,

And, critically to the very way they related.

Thus, slowly, this palpable Presence of His

Even began to pattern

Both their sense of group IDENTITY : who they were TOGETHER

And their sense of group DESTINY : what their future was TOGETHER.

This sensed new Presence of Jesus SEEMED ...

To GATHER them as one, in His spirit,

To ENVISION them with a new direction,

And to EMPOWER them mysteriously with His very Life !

Jesus, the Teacher they loved so much, seemed ...

To be living THROUGH THEM !

Wonder and gratitude cascaded out of their hearts, into their speech !

Jesus' words, before the CLOUD had enveloped Him,

“Wait here, for what the Father has promised”,⁹

Now fired their hearts !

And so, they waited in prayer, with eager, expectant hearts.

1 Poem 826, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 3.

2 Acts 1:9 3 IBID 4 Lk 22:19 5 Acts 1:14 6 IBID 7 Jn 10:30 8 Lk 18:1 9 Cf Lk 24:49

Entombed ... and Divinized ¹

To be entombed – ALIVE–
Within the Paschal Jesus' contemplative heart
– Deep within a waiting Church's heart –
Is not to be weighed down by earth's confines,
Or by a Holy Saturday's supposed gloomy consciousness,
But anchored by a bed-rock FAITH,
To eagerly sense
The tenderness of Abba's IMPENDING, FREEING, EMBRACE !

With minds and hearts dying ... then hopefully dead
... To the world
– Thirsting, yearning, in our death-state, for Abba's invigorating Life –
Our spirits are gently, wondrously, RESURRECTED
By His vitalizing BREATH !

As Abba bends reverently over the corpse
Of our worldly 'closed-in' self,
He gently fills our lungs and spirits
With His most treasured resource
– The Easter Life Force of His Spirit !

Joy lights up our eyes
... As our limbs, our tissue, our very heart
Warm and surge, with the Beloved's life-blood ;
... And, wondrously, Jesus' new radiantly vital SELF
Fires OUR inspired minds and exhilarating spirits,
With the luminous, sublime Beauty and Dignity
Of HUMANITY'S Divine Son !

This is the experience of being saved,
Of being DRAWN FORTH from an ever-limiting world
INTO CHRIST !

Our new 'home' is not one located
Within another 'closed-in' self ...

No !

We are sublimely – INFINITELY – opened, in Christ,

And UPLIFTED TOGETHER

Into Fellowship with Abba, in the Spirit of Liberty !

The very fountain of our new being

Pours forth from Their Communing !

And our DESTINY, whole and oceanic, is the Eternal Fellowship itself !

*To be thus saved,
To be thus deluged with Love,
Is to choose Abba's way –
To let one's SELF be crucified to Jesus' cross,
To laugh at death, spurning its empty 'P.R. talk' and menaces,
And to be swept up into the Fellowship of Love Eternal !*

Abba Saves Us ¹

Abba SAVES US ...

From SIN – our preferring the creature to the creator

From ENSLAVEMENT TO SATAN – to his lies, illusions and deceits

From DEATH'S POWER – as we dismiss it, obsess about it, compensate for it

From SELF – self-indulgence, self-acquisitiveness, and self-promotion

From ADDICTION – to pleasure, to possessions, to power

From THE WORLD – of superficiality, of display, of privileged power

From HATRED – of self, of others, of God.

Abba SAVES US ...

Through the FAITH of Peter, of the Church ... the Body of His Beloved Jesus

Through the HOPE of Mary, icon of the Church ... the Body of her Son

Through the LOVE of Jesus, crucified for the Church ... gathered as His Body

Through BEING “MEMBERS, ONE OF ANOTHER” ... as Christ's Body, loving each other ²

Through TABLE FELLOWSHIP, of Christ's Eucharistic BODY

Through BEING EN-SPIRITED IN CHRIST ... in the Body

Of His Word, of His Sacrament, and of His Church.

Abba SAVES US ...

For THE LOVE OF CREATION, which, IN Christ “the new creation,” ³

He rejoices in, and embraces !

For LOVE OF US – “so that the love with which You loved me, MAY BE IN THEM”. ⁴

*For LOVE OF THE SPIRIT OF GLORY – “so that they may always
see the Glory, You have given me.”* ⁵

*For LOVE OF HIS BELOVED – “Now Abba, it is time for You to glorify me
with the glory I had with You.”* ⁶

*For LOVE OF ABBA HIMSELF – “Abba, glorify Your Son,
so that Your Son may glorify You !”* ⁷

*For LOVE OF FELLOWSHIP – “My Abba will love you, and we will come to you,
and make our home with you !”* ⁸

For LOVE OF ALL – “that God may be ALL in ALL !” ⁹

Thus Abba SAVES US ...

FROM where Fellowship is absent !

THROUGH means of Fellowship !

FOR the purpose of Fellowship !

1 Poem 828, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 5.

2 Eph 4:25 (N.R.S.V.)

3 2Cor 5:17

4 Jn 17:26

5 Jn 17:24

6 Jn 17:5

7 Jn 17:1

8 Jn 14:23

9 1Cor 15:28

The Ascension's Spirit-Kiss ¹

SETTING : *On the Mount of Olives, with the Temple below ... just before Jesus' Ascension*

... Abba in Heaven, exults as He addresses His Son :

(Written with numerous resonances, unlisted, to the Song of Songs ...)

(ABBA:) *Hurry ! Spirit of sunshine,
Bring on the hour
Of my Beloved's homecoming !
O ! How I yearn for Him
Whom my heart loves !*

*Hurry ! Spirit of the north wind,
Sweep Southwards from Mt Hermon ...
Breathe through my garden of love,
To spread its Divine fragrance abroad
... To lead my Beloved home, to our paradise of joy !
O Come now, my Love, my lovely one, come !*

*Look ! The sun beams full
On the gold of the temple dome,
To signal the noontide of His Ascent !
— And of humanity's ascent !
Hurry ! Spirit of Homecoming,
ALERT my Son ! It's time for His return !*

O ! How I yearn for Him

For whom my heart overflows with love !

O See ! How the Beloved stands ready – the glory of His race !

Thronged by loved ones, by heartfelt disciples,

On the heights of the Olive Mount

... Bidding His friends, the fondest of farewells.

O Come now, my Love, my lovely one, come !

The winter of your pain is past,

Your sacrifice for humankind, complete ;

Your spring of joy now colours the heights of Sion

... The fragrance of your RE-BIRTH, ready for release !

(ABB.A:) I long, I thirst to draw You to myself –

To uplift Your HUMANITY to my Divine Embrace !

O ! How I yearn for Your Presence !

And that of all Your brothers and sisters WITHIN !

O ! Show me Your Face !

O ! Let me hear the voice of Your humanity,

And that of all Your kin ...

Speaking with Your voice !

Their voice is so beautiful ;

And their gaze, sparkling with the love of Your eyes,

Melts my heart !

Now ! The time is ripe ! All is fulfilled !

The sun has reached its zenith ...

Your heart ... My heart ... OUR hearts ...

Are full to overflowing as they unite,

And, AS spirits, INDWELL each other !

O Spirit of Union !

Draw His humanity

Into our Communion of Love :

O Shekinah !

O Glory Cloud !

A Spirit Cloud !

Enfold Him now !

Envelop Him with tenderness !

O ! I tremble to the core of my Father's Being,

As I embrace this Most Beautiful Son of mine

... And all His brothers and sisters WITHIN !

O ! What a wondrous Encounter !

– The same Wondrous Enrapture at the heart of every Eucharist !

– The self-same Enrapture of every SURRENDER OF EACH HUMAN HEART !

Welcome ! Glory ! Blessings ! To You, My Son !

O Eyes ! Luminous with human trust !

O Face, radiant with Heaven's Promise !

O Homecoming Prince !

(ABBA:) *The Realization of my Dream of Love !*
Most faithful One !
Dearest Son !
O Blessed Child of Earth !
Darling of the Universe !
Son of Joy !
Prince of Peace !

(ABBA:) *O ! My Father's pride swells to BURSTING,*
And my heart is overwhelmed with tenderness,
To have You home
... Home within my heart !
It's a home to quell the Longing of the Cosmos
... The Yearning of All Ages !
It's the heavenly harbour for all human hearts !
The love-focus too, of All Angels !

O ! How beautiful You are, my Beloved !
None more delightful !
Be enveloped within my Arms of Love,
And I, within Your human embrace !
Kiss me with the kiss of Your mouth,
And I will kiss You with this kiss of mine !

Come NOW, Spirit-Kiss ... draw us together !

Spirit of Desire wed us !

Radiate forth ...

Your God-burst of delight !

O Divine Ecstasy !

O Divine Enrapture !

Beloved Son, My Being's in Yours , and Yours is in Mine ...

OURS TOGETHER in the Spirit !

All Three ...

Together One !

One Together !

O Fellowship of Love !

Glorious Fellowship !

Fellowship Eternal !

*(ABBA:) Humanity's ascension finds a home with us,
Within this Fellowship of Ours !
Humanity's heart beats now with Heaven's Glory !
O Wondrous, loving, Ascended Son
Your Divinely-human heartbeat
Is the true Song of the Universe !
O Cosmic Harmony ! O Incarnate Melody !
This True Echo of human love,
Is the sweetest music to a Father's ears !*

Indeed, My Enfleshed Word, at last, has come home ...

Resonating with a billion human heartsongs !

Resonating with One Voice ...

Once, a Child's murmur,

Now, a mature Son's greeting

"ABBA !"

O Divine Beloved !

Fragrant with earth's breath, is Your Kiss !

Perfumed with humanity's love ...

It is the Divine Scent of earth !

Dearest Son !

How I glory in Your Closeness !

... Delight in Your human affection !

... Thrill to Your caresses !

O Most Beautiful One !

Your lips are redolent with the tastes of earth !

How wonderful is creation that nourished You, My Son !

... That so fulsomely nurtured You, My Divine Child !

I can taste, on Your lips, the trace of earth's sweet water

That slaked Your thirst on the Cross :

Now, have Your thirst, quenched by Our Love !

Your hunger, satisfied by Our Fellowship !

O taste and see Your Father's goodness !

(*ABBA:*) *O Spirit-Kiss of the Ascension,*
Breathing forth Our Mutual Love
–The Enrapture of Humanity within the Divine –
PREPARE YOURSELF
To be breathed into the very hearts of humanity,
Into the Beloved’s new sisters and brothers.
READY YOURSELF
To indulge their lives
With Jesus Ascended’s
Life ! Light ! and Love !

The flash of this Love
Will be like a flash of fire,
Inflaming all in turn,
Heart, lighting up heart ...
Lighting up their very lives !
... So with love-lit hearts,
Basking in Paschal Light,
They too, will call me “Abba !”
And I will call them, “Beloved !”
Drawing them to my heart, in Him,
Bestowing on each other,
YOU, O SPIRIT-KISS !

1 Poem 829, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 6.

NOTE: Numerous resonances with the Song of Songs. All unlisted.

Choose the Torrent ¹

When we're really OPEN-HEARTED WITH ABBA,

The Spirit rushes like a torrent

Into the dry creek-beds of our lives :

Cascading joy WITHIN

... Transforming, vitalizing, our spirits,

Creating enthusiasm for the Kingdom,

Lighting up any dimming dreams

– With an enabling vision

Of Who-we-are, and Who-we-are-with !

Then as the flow and surges of the Spirit-Torrent

Carries us, wondrously onwards

... Nurturing and deepening our growing together ...

Each occasion of grace GIFTS THE NEXT in turn !

At times, the Spirit seems to REST WITHIN its flow

While smoothly empowering the stream of grace forward

... Just as a deep mature river

Surges powerfully, but SILENTLY, downstream .

At other times, the Spirit-Flow, while strongly buoying us along,

CAN

—As when a wide deep stream, quickly narrows —

Suddenly become a TORRENT !

Yet, it is not a disruptive one, because the Flow of Grace

Is not a turbulence of churning water,

But a torrent of DANCING, SCINTILLATING LIGHT WITHIN —

Delighting !

Vitalizing !

Deifying !

Urging us ... Reassuring us ...

Centering us !

“Offer no resistance to the Spirit-Torrent

Surrender to its freeing power :

CHOOSE THE TORRENT !

Let its Love UPLIFT you !

Let it simply FLOW THROUGH YOU into others' lives !

Let the Spirit-Torrent choose its own path :

... Now, as a sparkling stream of encouragement !

... Now, as a selfless surge of energy !

... Now, like a mist's soft caress.

“As the Spirit-Torrent COMPANIONS you :

Chart no course of your own

... But, be buoyed homewards

On its descent to the Sea of Love

– Seeking Fellowship, as it returns to the Torrent’s Source.

(The Trinity:)

“Join us !

As We continuously Dance

Within this Deluge of Life !

... Wherein, Three Loves become One

And One Love pours forth as Three,

Enveloping all whose hearts

Are OPENED to Abba ! ”

With Clear-eyed Certainty ¹

Faith real-izes heaven here on earth ;
It anticipates the paradise we hope for
– The Vision of Glory
– KNOWING GOD'S HERE
... Contemplating
Not what the eyes see,
But seeing with the eyes of A HEART IN LOVE !
It is KNOWING that the Face of Love awaits,
Knowing the heart of Jesus Ascending ;
Finally, receiving the gaze of Love,
With THE OPEN-HEARTEDNESS of the Ascending Jesus !

Still, for us, NOW,
Faith's "seeing" is hidden,
But also wondrously CERTAIN
– Since its very anchor, is Abba-God Himself !
Yes ! Abba's GIFT to Jesus' and our pilgrim humanity,
Is to behold Love's Face, IN FAITH,
On the very way to the Cross
With a wondrous certainty
– Because He, and we, KNOW with Christ's loving heart .

Some have claimed that Faith is but 'BLIND trust':

But, for we who share in Jesus's faith, –

We see with the CLEAR-EYED CERTAINTY of Jesus,

The loved Son of a loving Dad !

Still, what we see, is mostly hidden

... With just passing glimpses of Eternal Love,

Given, as gifts, on our pilgrim way .

Why hidden ?

Because God will NOT COMPEL our love, our adoration, and our fidelity !

Abba will not force our allegiance by 'conquering' our minds and hearts,

OVERWHELMING US

With the naked brilliance of Divine Truth !

With the unshielded Wonder of His Goodness !

With the unveiled Glory of His Beauty !

No, God is freedom !

And Abba has set us free

TO CHOOSE to love Him, in freedom !

Faith then is free –

Free to be persuaded,

Free to be enticed,

Free to be fascinated,

But also, AS UNFAITH,

Free to negate its own purpose,

*Free NOT to exercise faith,
Free instead, to focus its loving gaze on the creature ...
Not the Creator,
– Refusing even to ‘look’ at God, one knows is there !*

*Yet to gaze, WITH faith,
Is to be set free in an ocean of freedom !
To be as free, AS Christ –
Free to ascend into the arms of Love !
Free to BREATHE IN the Spirit,
Free to be GUEST to millions of hearts, IN Oneself !
Free to BREATHE the Spirit FORTH
... Upon all open-hearted brothers and sisters !
Free, finally, in our Home-coming,
To gaze directly
WITH God, ON God, IN God !*

Really Listen : Heart to Heart ^{* 1}

*Let us listen to each other,
Really listen : heart to heart,
Breathe the Spirit, all together
– So to nurture 'Love's now start' !*

*Listen to each other's SPIRIT ...
Mur'rings of the Spirit there :
We are all guests, of each other ...
Familed, IN Christ, our Kin !*

Identified with Christ ¹

Identified with Christ, we become ...

“One single New Person in Him” ²

“... By dying with Him” ³

– Suffering with His suffering,

Loving with His Love,

Sacrificing ourselves for others .

Being raised, out of sin, with Him

... We live His Life IN HIM,

... He lives His Life IN US !

Ascending, through grace, with Him

Our very humanity is UPLIFTED with His :

Dignified IN His !

Glorified IN His !

Deified IN His !

1 Poem 833, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2007.

2 Eph 2:15

3 Cf Rom 6:8

Communing with Abba ¹

*The most profound and personal way
Of communing with our Abba-God,
Is to LIVE OUR LIFE, IN CHRIST
—The enfleshed WORK OF ABBA.
He is Word both TO us, and FROM us
And in so being, LIVES HIS LIFE in us
—A REALITY experienced, surpassingly,
IN EUCHARIST!*

*To live this Life of the Eucharistic Word,
Is to be encountered by the One
Who is THE FULLEST EXPRESSION
... Of who-Abba-is
As Lover, Beloved, and Love,
And As Father to us ;
... And of who-we-are
As children to Abba, in Christ .*

*In Eucharist,
Abba's enfleshed Word
Encounters us IN the Spirit,
And enables us, IN the Spirit, to encounter Abba.
This we enact, sacramentally,*

*... Through the personalized proclamation of Abba's Word,
... Through the GIFT of all we are, and yearn to express, TO Abba,
... And through Communion, enabling our communing as Children of Abba .*

A Simple Meal ¹

Abba,

From all the Eucharistic, MEMORIALS possible,

–Within Your Divine Imagination –

You have selected

But one,

A simple meal

... TO ENABLE us

To CO-EXPERIENCE

Your Beloved's Saving Paschal Mystery .

Readying Us for Abba's Spirit ¹

Jesus is the Beloved One

*... In whose brotherly care, we become
The homecoming ones, the cherished ones !*

*... Who leads us to ourselves,
Making our divided hearts whole !*

*... Who leads us to each other's arms,
Just as Abba enfolds Him in Love's Arms !*

*... Whose love gathers us together, within Himself,
Readying us for Abba's Spirit.*

We are All, Works of the Spirit ¹

*O Spirit of Paschal Love,
Give our spirits continued growth WITHIN THE ASCENDED JESUS
... Suffusing our spirits with His,
... Radiating our minds with His consciousness,
... Allowing us to co-experience His Embrace by Abba.*

*O ! To be poor in spirit, like Jesus
... To have His empathy, His instinctive compassion,
Flow from OUR hearts, IN the Spirit !
O Paschal Spirit, further transform us
So that, in seeing our Abba-God in everyone,
As Jesus did,
We will continue to BEAR our suffering-for-these-others,
By co-sacrificing WITH CALVARY'S JESUS.*

*And to IMITATE Him, most deeply, we pray
That the Spirit of the Easter Jesus,
Create a NEW HUMANITY within us
... An ever-inclusive humanity
... And, especially, a self-sacrificing humanity,
Just like His own !*

Ultra-Reality ¹

*Faith plunges us into an ultra-reality ...
Inside, yet beyond the reality we know.
It surpasses 'our' reality, yet sustains it,
Blooming before, yet destined to flourish after it !*

*As 'our' reality's source, and its summit,
It is entrusted to us, as a PURE GIFT !
It is a mystery beyond our experience,
Yet we can encounter it at anytime !
It is available to all, yet is accessible only
Through openness to ONE PERSON, Christ !
While only experienced through our identifying
With THIS ONE PERSON, Jesus Ascended,
It is essentially an experience of communing,
Of a gathering-together in THIS ONE PERSON,
Who is the fullest and ultimate expression
Of this ultra-reality !*

This ultra-reality is thus a wondrous reality WITHIN CHRIST

– The reality of Divine Fellowship !

Faith enables it,

For us !

Happy ! Happy ! Happy ! the person gifted with faith !

May they hold onto this GIFT

... With a child's tenacity !

And simplicity !

With Words that Galvanize ¹

Spirit of Inspiration !

Stir us ... as You unveil, and we discover ...

Our creativity and imagination, IN YOU :

– So we can inspire pilgrim hearts,

With words that galvanize

... Remembering that, in our dependency,

Every heart is a pilgrim ;

–So we can express Your Love,

With a vision that encompasses and embraces

Ever more hearts – thus giving our pilgrim hearts

Both a home, and a people !

¹ Poem 839, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2007.

Folio Forty-Three

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A Humanity, WONDROUSLY TRANSFORMED ¹

Like anyone's ... my sufferings
In emptying into Christ's Calvary cup, in daily Eucharist,
– Become the Wondrous Cup of His Covenant of Love,
– Able to quench, beyond my knowing or enabling,
All my brothers' and sisters' THIRST,
Within Abba's Banquet of Paschal Love !
This Elixir of the Spirit brightens their faces with joy,
And settles Easter Peace
Deep within receptive hearts .

O Abba, lead us ever so compassionately,
To imitate Your crucified Beloved
Whom You so fondly ACCOMPANIED
Through all His suffering and death.
Just as lovingly,
Re-configure us to His resurrected humanity,
And draw us, within Him,
Into Your waiting, open heart
– As a humanity, wondrously transformed
... The home of Limitless Life !
And of unbounded possibilities !
O Father of Tenderness, enfold our New Humanity,
Risen and Ascended, in Jesus !

Feeling the Heartbeat of God ¹

To be the son, the daughter

Abba wants-us-to-be,

We need to EXPERIENCE –

*... The heart of the WIDOW, giving of her necessity
–impoverishing her present, for a future – reliant on God.*

*... The heart of ZACCHEUS, excitedly inviting Jesus home
–so that the glimpse from the tree ... becomes table fellowship !*

*... The heart of JUDAS, within our selfish spirit,
–when, like him, we smother the Gift of God,
–when, unlike him, we need to TRUST in forgiveness.*

*... The heart of the CHILD, climbing into Jesus' embrace,
–with her cheek on His chest, feeling the heartbeat of God !*

*... The heart of LAZARUS with burial linens unwrapped,
–gazing into the eyes of his friend, his 'goel', his God ! ²*

*... The heart of PETER, trading the lure of the familiar,
–for an Easter conversion, on Galilee's shore !*

*... The heart of MARY, aching at the foot of the Cross,
–trembling as she offers her Son back to Abba,
–yet surging ... surging with joy, on Easter morning!*

1 Poem 841, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2007.

2 The Old Testament usage, 'goel' means 'rescuer' or 'redeemer' .

Equality and Democracy ¹

*Historically, or in specific personal terms,
Where there is no ownership of equality in relationships,
Or of democracy in social groupings,
Then, by choosing not to tolerate limits on one's freedom,
And by choosing to promote one's individual efforts and merits,
The reward sought for, is the positioning of oneself
Securely within the various hierarchies
Of power, wealth and privilege –
– Ensuring that inequalities and undemocratic practices persist !*

*Contrarivise,
By espousing equality between persons, democracy within groups,
We freely PROMOTE and CONSOLIDATE them
Universally and unconditionally.
Thus, we 'naturally' work to ensure that ALL change, ALL growth,
ENHANCES BOTH –
COMMUNITY living as a necessary core human value,
And the inalienable dignity of each PERSON .*

Reflecting Who God Is ¹

Only God can IMAGE, EXPERIENCE and DESIRE God.

All others can do so only, in God, through grace !

Jesus Ascended

Alive now, IN OUR FLESH,

Is

–Abba’s IMAGE ... alive with His radiant Eternal Loveliness !

–The living, perfect expression of Abba’s CONSCIOUSNESS !

–And Abba’s LIMITLESS DESIRE ... to pour Himself out in love !

In Jesus Ascended,

We too

–ALIVE WITH HIS SPIRIT –

REFLECT ... Abba’s own luminous goodness,

Through a loving Eucharistic personality !

ECHO ... Abba’s created Paschal inclusiveness

–In a welcome that transforms and gathers together !

RESPOND ... To Abba’s invitations to tender intimacy, and to Fellowship,

By surrendering ourselves to loving others, no matter what !

... So that,

All who are, IN Christ –

RADIATE ... The truly selfless quality of sacrificial love !

RECIPROCATATE ... By being poor in spirit, by befriending enemies,

By being gathered and transformed together !

RESOUND ... With the joy of loving Abba FACE TO FACE in Christ !

With the exhilaration of COMMUNING IN FELLOWSHIP !

Light in the Darkness ¹

INSPIRATIONS

“I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me, won't walk in darkness,

But will have the LIGHT OF LIFE !” (Jn 8:12)

“People who live by the truth,

Come INTO the light

—So that it may be plainly seen

That what they do, IS DONE IN GOD !” (Jn 2:21)

For us human beings :

Light, of itself, will always exist.

Darkness, of itself, does not exist.

Light's centre is within itself.

Darkness has no centre.

Light's centre is light.

One is lost, in any darkness.

Light is never conditioned by darkness.

Darkness happens, if light is removed.

Light disappears only when BLOCKED ...

Darkness disappears when light appears ...

As when our will closes out Christ's Light.

We see anew, as our will opens to Christ's Light.

Christ's light is a LIFE-SOURCE for humanity.

Evil is the death of this LIFE-SOURCE within.

The Christ-Light is outgoing ... revealing itself.

Evil is intensive: seeking ... disguising itself

We truly RELATE, to the Christ-Light's presence.

We CANNOT relate to ITS absence.

We can actively FOLLOW Christ's Light.

We STAY INACTIVE in evil's darkness, disoriented.

We can DELIGHT IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, We have to ENDURE EVIL'S DARKNESS,

Because it is enabling, and inclusive: -

Because it is alienating and exclusive :-

Centering our person

Disorienting us, by selfishness

Centering our friendships

Disorienting us, by individualism

Centering our community

Disorienting us, by factional self-interests

Centering us as a people

Disorienting us, by inequalities

Centering our Church

Disorienting us, by infighting and legalism

Centering humanity.

Disorienting us, by greed, lust, and pride.

LIGHT is experienced ...

DARKNESS is endured ...

intellectually as truthfulness

intellectually as deceptiveness

affectively as goodness

affectively as badness or evil

spiritually as luminous grace

spiritually as human striving alone

personally as our Indwelling God

personally as egocentricity

interpersonally as Divine Fellowship within

interpersonally as dissension

Light's PURPOSE is to delight ...

Darkness as evil, has NO purpose :

To uplift and give life a focus.

It is irrational and irrelevant.

The fruit of Light is LUMINOUS COMMUNION.

Evil's fruit is rampant individualism,

Distrust, deceit and division.

Thus, to be-hold the Light,

To face darkness, is to be lost,

Is to enter this Communion

Disoriented, in stark isolation.

*Thus, for us human beings,
In this era of the Holy Spirit,
There is always A CHOICE between Light and darkness.
Thus, personal spiritual darkness descends on us through choosing it FREELY
–Even if this overlaid, and complexed by seemingly impersonal forces.
This freedom REMAINS SMOTHERED in the heart of those who choose darkness.
Wherever there is freedom, Christ’s saving love is there too ...
To awaken freedom, at those times,
When suffering lowers people’s defences
–Allowing in a glimmer of Christ-light
To shine in the darkness
... Prompting us, perhaps, to re-choose Light
And Life !*

Our Co-experience of Christ ¹

PREAMBLE :

A dream unfolded in my night's odyssey ...
As to how I was to affirm, and to focus
OTHER people's aspirations for humanity's future
... As they envisioned them in their hearts.
Their selfless visions were ...
Of health-motivated, balanced lifestyles,
Of lives, dovetailed into ecological partnerships,
Of heartfelt strategies for communal caring,
Of a world, war-free, and pooling its resources,
Of leadership, ennobled by graced consensus ...

Then, after many "dream-days" passed ... the question emerged :

"Tom, what's your own vision ?

Prompted by the Spirit, I replied ...

"Our future, TOGETHER,

Needs to be based on a radical FAITH,

A FAITH –

Wherein Christ IDENTIFIES Himself AS US !

And we IDENTIFY ourselves AS CHRIST !

– Such that our call is CO-IDENTIFY with Christ !

–To CO-EXPERIENCE His consciousness !

–And to CO-EXPERIENCE HIS DESTINY !

... OURS, now, being an experience of grace, and of a clouded vision,

... HIS, an eternalized experience of Paschal Glory, of Divine clarity !

Held within the heart of the Ascended Jesus ...

The reality of our CO-IDENTITY

The reality of our CO-CONSCIOUSNESS

The reality of our CO-DESTINY

Is as REAL as the breath we breathe ...

As real

As Christ's Breathing in, and Breathing out,

Of His Paschal Spirit

... Divinizing the beating of our human hearts

To become ONE with His !

Thus, in Christ's world ...

That is, in His very PERSON,

The Divine Spirit-Breath

Seeks to bring our spirits

Into harmony

With BOTH Abba and Jesus Ascended,

Who draw us into Their loving ENRAPTURE

And breathe US forth, in Their Spirit

... Into the graced freedom

Of being TOGETHER IN CHRIST !

Visualize Your Future, IN Christ ¹

To attract, to realize, what you DESIRE :

GIVE THANKS, in Christ, for what you have, already !

ENJOY FEELING GOOD NOW, in Christ, as if your desires are fulfilled !

LET YOU BODY LANGUAGE express this fulfilment, now !

SEE YOURSELF, as living now, in Christ, what you desire !

Indeed, our hearts are made to experience joy

– Surpassingly ... Easter joy !

So, always call to mind, and visualize ...

How, it is out of the Cross, that Easter joy arises

– Because, our ascendant humanity, is UPLIFTED

Into the Embrace of God's Joy !

Thus, Bliss is God's Gift, and when we are receptive,

The universe will open this GIFT

For us, IN Christ !

And imprint on your consciousness –

That Bliss is never ours to experience alone !

So, this very day ...

Affirm people who DESIRE good outcomes for others !

Affirm them of OUR joyful future together, IN Christ !

... Recalling to their minds, that joys shared together,

Reflect the boundless joy of the Trinity's COMMUNING together !

Nothing Else Matters ¹

Jesus,

Here ! On this Cross – ²

Your love is All !

Nothing else matters !

Abba's love for You

Is the only measure of Your own depthless love !

On this Cross, Jesus,

Where Your "Abba, I have loved them, as much as You loved me" ³

... Is FULLY REVEALED ...

I feel wholly enveloped by Abba's, and thus, Your Love !

This love is the only REALITY for me !

Because, Jesus, You and we

Share a humanity, love-lit within, by Abba's Love,

All of our past, all of our imaginable futures,

Vanish into irrelevance

... In Abba's Loving Presence

– As IT is wholly revealed through Your Loving Presence ON THE CROSS !

Nothing else matters !

O *Abba*,

Here ! In a body, taut with longing

–Hopefully IN Christ –

I entrust myself to You

... With every cell of my being.

Yes, Abba !

Your Spirit is at work in us ... whispering the tough truth,

'Love needs to suffer, to give birth to love' .

Let, then, Your Spirit enter into every agony,

Into my smallest discomfort,

And thereby SAVE some of my brothers and sisters

... Through Christ's suffering, in me !

Spirit, transform US TOGETHER :

Grace us, to offer up, whatever suffering comes our way.

Thus, bound to this Cross, IN Christ,

Bound by love, like Him,

I hope that both You, Abba,

And Your Spirit, who transforms all suffering,

ACCOMPANY all hurting, God-seeking hearts

Through all they suffer, and through death.

Now Abba !

In a humbled humanity, spreadeagled on this Cross,

– As with Your Beloved –

We search for Your Face.

Most commonly, it is through Eucharist, IN Him,

That we can gaze into Your eyes

... To summon us !

... To free us !

... To en-Spirit us !

Now Abba !

Again, in the Eucharistic Jesus,

Your Easter Dawn's own Luminous Love

... Enlivens our being !

... Vitalizes our spirits !

... Freeing us for Adoption !

Now Abba !

In Jesus' noontime Ascension, Your Fatherly heart

Ever draws us into Your Embrace of Your Beloved,

As you engage our humanity in an Eternal Exchange :

Love gaining a Son, who is 'Many',

And we, the 'Many', AS SON, gaining a Father !

O Abba ! The excess of Your enabling delight

Bonds us all-as-one in Your Embrace

... As Your Spirit comes ALIVE in us !

Now Abba !

In Easter's golden twilight

LET Your Spirit flow freely,

FLOW AS LIGHT FLOWS

– Through the arteries of Christ's, and our, humanity :

Radiating joy, out-loving hate

... Indwelling friends, befriending enemies !

In thus holding humanity's polarities TOGETHER,

Jesus, the Beloved CHILD, of a universe uplifted,

In His Paschal simplicity ... IS at once :

The Many, within the One !

The old, become the New !

Divinely human !

Humanly Divine !

Now Abba !

In Your Eternal Embrace of Your Risen Beloved,

Your Love is "All in All"! ⁴

Love giving birth to Love !

1 Poem 847, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, July 2007.

2 'This' cross was a most anxious time for me.

3 Jn 17:23

4 1 Cor 15:28

A Church, Consumed by Love ¹

WHATEVER the Church does, is done in us :

WHATEVER we do, is done in the Church.

Thus, Christian hearts – ²

Weep, for the pain inflicted on Love,

Cry with the pain of your Church :

Heartfelt penitents, forgiving victims, UNITE !

Let your eyes ... linger here, on the Face of Love

... Hearts open, with the openness of your Church ...

Homecoming prodigals, EMBRACED.

Hold ...hold gently, the faithful hand of Love,

Trust, with the trust of your Church :

Child's hand, within a Father's, HELD.

Breathe in, breathe deeply the Spirit of Love,

–Love, with the heart of your Church

... Begetting Love's Child in others, NURTURING.

Blaze, burn passionately with the Fire of Love,

Aflame with the zeal of your Church

–Consumed by Love ... TRANSFORMED !

Breathe forth, breathe forth the Spirit of Love,

Hearts resonating with the compassion of your Church :

All, through Eucharistic self-sacrifice – REVITALIZED !

Shine, shine forth the Joy of Love !

Rejoice with the alleluias of your Church

–Within the Fellowship of Peace ... COMMUNING.

1 Poem 848, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, August 2007.

2 'This poem encapsulates what I sense is my ministry'. Author.

Eucharist : A Mount Tabor Experience ¹

*The Transformation of Jesus on Love's Mountain
Reveals the INNER REALITY of His Eucharistic Prayer
Acted out on Calvary and on Easter Day ...*

*Like His awe-struck apostles,
Jesus, within Eucharist, "LEADS US ... up the Mountain to pray" ²
... THERE, be Enraptured, in Abba's loving company.
For us, Abba's Mysterious Eucharistic Presence
Is like the 'prodigal' Father, eager to embrace us
To envelop us, to draw us close
... Within Abba's own Tent of Intimacy : the Person of Jesus.*

*So Eucharist becomes, as on Mount Tabor,
Abba's "CLOUD" OF LOVE, ³
Enfolding our spirits,
Modelling our Divine likeness, on Jesus, "the Beloved"! ⁴*

*In this THEOPHANY ...
While the Spirit is SENSED
"In the aspect of Jesus' changing face",
As well as in "His clothing becoming as brilliant as lightning", ⁵
And while the Father, "the Sublime Glory itself, SPEAKS" to us ⁶
... The central focus of everyone's delight, in Eucharist, as on Mount Tabor,
Is Abba's "My Son, the Beloved !" ⁷*

Thus, in any Eucharistic ENCOUNTER,

Our mission is –

... *“To go INTO the Cloud”, “where we see Jesus’ Glory”,* ^{8,9}

... *To “LISTEN to Him” there,* ¹⁰

... *To join Him in His Resurrected ‘Yes!’ to Abba,*

And in His Ascensional “Amen!” to Abba’s Embrace.

What a wondrous privilege !

As the FRUIT of this Eucharistic Communing,

Wherein Jesus “comes and TOUCHES us” – ¹¹

Our daily graced DELIGHT

... *Is to pray “It is wonderful for us to be here !”* ¹²

... *To “see Your majesty for ourselves !”* ¹³

It is also our joy

... *“To speak of His Rising,” like the Apostles, “among ourselves”,* ¹⁴

And “To tell no one ... until the Son of Man has risen” ¹⁵

... *IN OUR OWN HEARTS !*

In this way, Jesus’ luminous goodness transfigures us also,

Uplifting our spirits, Eucharistically

So that, like Jesus on Tabor,

We are “honoured and glorified by God the Father” ¹⁶

As WITNESSES to His Son !

1 Poem 849, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woollowin Community, Transfiguration – August 6, 2007.

2 Lk 9:28

3 Mt 17:5

4 IBID

5 Lk 9:29

6 2Pet 1:17

7 Mk 9:8

8 Lk 9:34

9 Cf Jn 1:14

10 Lk 9:35

11 Mt 17:7

12 Mt 17:4

13 2Pet 1:17

14 Mk 9:10

15 Mt 17:9

16 2 Pet 1:16.

From Servants, to Friends, to Brothers ¹

The Easter Christ's

Ten simple men ²

Who, having begun as co-servants of Yahweh with Him,

Had, by the time of their Last Supper together,

Undergone a transformation, in intimacy –

FROM ... "If a man serves me, he must follow me", ³

AND ... "I no LONGER call you SERVANTS", ⁴

To ... "I call you, FRIENDS". ⁵

Yet, by Easter Morn

This wonderful relationship is again changed

... Deepening their intimacy immeasurably,

Because, as Saint Paul proclaims.

"For those who have died, IN Jesus,

God will bring them WITH HIM." ⁶

Raised with Christ,

They are ADOPTED INTO THE SAME RELATIONSHIP

That He Himself enjoys with Abba

– 'BELOVED CHILD OF ABBA!'

They, AS WE, become brothers and sisters to Jesus Ascended,

And to each other!

By Easter noontime, as the Ascending One,

Jesus SEALS this new relationship,

As He indicates to Mary Magdelene ...

“Go, tell MY BROTHERS !

I am ascending

To my Father, and YOUR Father,

To my God, and YOUR God.”⁷

“We” now, are Christ’s new brothers, new sisters.

Our new relationship, our new dignity,

Is SPECIFICALLY SEALED

By the Gift of the Spirit

“PROMISED” to Jesus.⁸

His receiving of the Spirit

BECOMES OURS ALSO

As signified that Easter Evening

In Jesus Ascended’s

GIVING OF THE SPIRIT⁹

To “the disciples” in the Supper Room.¹⁰

And wonder of wonders !

It is the receiving of this SPIRIT who is “PEACE”¹¹

– “BREATHED” into them, us, by Jesus Ascended –¹²

That draws them, us, IN Christ,

Into the wondrous ETERNAL FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE

With Abba and the Spirit of Peace !¹³

*And indeed, Jesus draws them, us,
NOT as many, discrete individuals ...
But He EN-PERSONS all together, in Himself
... Now as His “brothers” and sisters ...* ¹⁴

Co-experiencing

His IDENTITY ! His CONSCIOUSNESS ! His DESTINY ! ¹⁵

It is now ALSO us, whom Abba embraces as “Beloved”!

It is ALSO us, whom Abba kisses, full on the lips

... With the SPIRIT-KISS !

Significantly, it is ALSO us who surrender our whole NEW REALITY

Back to Abba

... Having it sealed, with the same SPIRIT-KISS !

Thus, as well as RECEIVING the Spirit,

Christ’s GIVING of the Spirit becomes OURS ALSO

... Signified in the period following Pentecost

– Still continuing –

When Christ’s brothers and sisters bestow the Spirit

On those whom Abba chooses !

1 Poem 850, Marian Valley, monthly Retreat, Assumption – August 15,2007.

2 “Ten”, became Thomas and Judas were not with them.

3 Jn 12: 26 4 Jn 15:15a 5 Jn 15: 15b 6 1 Thess 4:14 7 Jn 20:17

8 Lk 24:49, Acts 2:33 9 Jn 20:22 10 Jn 20:19 Was Mary with them ?

11 Jn 20:21 12 Jn 20:22 13 Cf Jn 20:21, 23 14 Jn 20:17 15 See Poem 845.

A Communion of Calls ¹

*Our Call, always to be CHRIST TO OTHERS,
Is but one of the Spirit's COMMUNION OF CALLS
... With our call, always to be CHRIST TO THE FATHER,
... And our call, always to be CHRIST TO ONESELF, AND OTHERS,
All coming together to integrate our whole life, in the Spirit.*

*Imitating the unfolding of Jesus' own spirit-story
– And only through the sheer gift of Grace –
Our first call is to CO-EXPERIENCE
Jesus' evolving RELATIONSHIP TO HIS ABBA :
Wherein, with growing and heartfelt receptivity,
WE treasure being Abba's Beloved,
And thus, WE faithfully reflect
Abba's own loving-kindness BACK to HIM ...
For, as Son, we "ALWAYS do
What we see the Father doing" ²
– Always loving, as we are loved !*

*Our second call is to CO-EXPERIENCE
OUR VERY SELVES WITH CHRIST :
Wherein Jesus Risen's consciousness ACCOMPANIES our own
... Tenderly ... acceptingly ... freely
So, as the sun of our self-seeking sets,*

Jesus' consciousness dawns WITHIN ours

– As the One to whom I belong

– Who expresses all I AM

To "I AM"...

Our third call is to CO-EXPERIENCE

BEING CHRIST TO OTHERS !

... Tenderly ... acceptingly ... freely

So, as our arms open in compassion to others,

It is His that GATHERS them, to EMBRACE them;

And, as they seek our hands,

It is His that leads them gently

To His Abba Father.

These three calls –

Resonate in harmony, enhancing each other,

Each enlivening the whole, in deepest COMMUNION.

Thus to be Christ : to the FATHER, to SELF, and to OTHERS,

Is to be ACCOMPANIED BY HIM

Into a Divine Communion

... To live there, AS HIM,

And simply, TO BE HIM

Always.

En-Personed ! ¹

Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !

Raised up by Abba's Love,

We are no longer MULTIPLE sons and daughters

... Many, self-directed, individuals ...

But, surpassingly,

Are EN-PERSONED IN CHRIST

– Made ONE PERSON with Christ Risen

– Through “the Spirit who raised Jesus !” ²

Wondrously, we are EN-FAMILIED AS HIM !

EN-PEOPLED AS HIM !

Swept up into the arms of Abba !

There enlivened by Their Spirit !

Free with Christ's freedom ! One with Christ's CHOICE !

Constituted in this New Creation – the Cosmic PERSON of Jesus Ascended,

The Beloved of the Universe,

WE, AS Christ Jesus, achieve our freedom within His

– Through that Paschal decision of His, motivated only by LOVE :

Easter's Abba granting us, IN HIM, ultimate possibilities of choice !

Yet Risen Love has no hesitation ...

WITH HIM, we choose THE KEY ONE, the one which crucified Him –

“The Son of Man is come ... to serve and to give His life ... for many.” ³

All OTHER possibilities cease to exist,

Because our choice is ETERNALIZED in His !

We commit to Jesus' narrow path of gentle CONSTRAINT

... To follow the way of LESS and LESS,

So as ALWAYS to be Christ ... to the Father, to oneself, and to others

To daily carry His "light burden" of loving others, ⁴

Of living out our Eucharist through service

... "Being all things to all people" IN HIM, ⁵

For "all things are POSSIBLE FOR GOD !" ⁶

1 Poem 852, Marian Valley monthly Retreat, August 2007.

2 Rom 8:11

3 Mk 10:45

4 Mt 11:28

5 1Cor 9:22 (NRSV)

6 Mt 19:26 (NRSV)

Suffering Centers Our Spirits ¹

*The wonderful gift of weakness, accepted,
Is the especial gift of the Spirit ...
To the Beloved's suffering remnant
Of faithful hearts.*

*For most of the world's people
... Including many with a faith that is tentative or weak ...*

*Accumulative suffering can DISSIPATE
Our spirit's energies and resolve,
Leading us to distort reality as something
Just to be ENDURED.*

*This CONFINES us, variously ...
Within our bodies, within our feelings, within our minds
– Contracting our spirits, to the TIMID LIMITS of a faith
Conditioned by multiplying fears !*

*For faith-filled followers
–Even though intense chronic pain, as for all,
Can EXCLUDE almost all other concerns –
Suffering still CENTERS one's spirit
So that ...*

*Only core prayers, focus our hearts,
Only persons who are open, engage our spirits,
Only KEY deep quests, concentrate our minds.*

KEY QUESTS, within the heart of suffering, are these :

To continue being a Eucharistic personality,

To ever deepen our Paschal consciousness,

To rejoice that ours is an ecclesial heart !

And because our Beloved brother ACCOMPANIES us

To the very epicentre of every suffering

– Blessing it with His TRANSFORMATIVE Presence –

Our suffering, IN HIM, now opens us

To all who LIVE !

To all that IS !

In this way, suffering invites us :

–To be truly empathetic,

As Calvary's Mary was ... embracing her Beloved's anguish

... Co-suffering with Him, for ALL who suffer;

–To co-identify with the Crucified Jesus' consciousness

Of HIDDEN burdens that all carry ...

Allowing THEIR load to become OURS, in Christ,

Thus allowing our suffering to become CO-REDEMPTIVE

... As we entrust ourselves, IN Christ, into Abba's hands.

Your Enabling Spirit ¹

*Abba, ENABLE US,
Through Your Spirit of Humility,
To become ever more like Christ
– So as to receive ALL YOU ARE !*

*And ENABLE US,
Through Your Spirit of Thankfulness,
To have our hearts fortified
–So as to give ALL WE ARE !*

Not for the Good of Others ¹

If they fail to FREE us, for the GOOD of others :

– The pursuit of pleasure ... ABUSES others, generates entitlement,

And spawns lust and over-indulgence;

– The pursuit of possessions ... EXPLOITS others, generates inequalities,

And spawns greed, and flaunting display;

– The pursuit of power ... DISEMPOWERS others, generates entitlement,

And spawns arrogance, and insistence on privilege.

Spirit : One Who Indwells Another ¹

PREAMBLE : *Spirit is threefold :*

**The Divine Spirit – Father and Son, indwelling Each Other*

In the Spirit of Them Both

**Pure spirits – Angels*

**Embodied spirits – Humankind.*

This poem, in referring to spirits, not Spirit, is focussing on angels and human beings.

A spirit, in its very essence,

Is one who CAN indwell another ...

Who, possibly, could indwell all other spirits

And be mutually indwelt by them.

Either through NATURE or through GRACE,

A spirit can indwell only RECEPTIVE spirits,

And can be indwelt, only if one chooses to be RECEPTIVE.

Both spirits enter into such SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP, to varying degrees.

While every spirit is OF GOD who IS Spirit,

And is open, in the NATURAL ORDER, to the Spirit of God

As the CENTERING SPIRIT of creation –

All remain free to disown

Their 'belongingness' to God, as creatures !

Indeed, some human spirits opt to become self-focussed, and closed-in

– Closed, for considerable periods, to indwell, or to be indwelt by, any open spirits.

Indeed, such human spirits at times, through deceitful overtures of fellowship,

Can be deliberately disruptive of the inner life of others

– In a somewhat similar fashion,

To Satan and his ‘fallen’ spirits !

But for all spirits, divinely vitalized by GRACE

... ‘To belong to God’,

Is a spirit’s most critical free choice

– That PERSONALIZES a response to God’s offer of friendship.

Such a choice FOR God,

Allows Creation’s CENTERING SPIRIT, also God’s Spirit,

To become for them, the Spirit of Love ...

To CENTER who they have become, through grace, IN CHRIST

– Indwelling those who, already, mutually indwell each other, IN Christ !

This Spirit of Love of Intimacy, of Enrapture,

Draws them into the very heart of the Divine Union,

Where Abba and the Ascended Jesus

Lovingly unite IN the Spirit.

For us, this Inner Communing is accessible and enabled, through the Eucharist !

Thus, as “members, one of another”, CENTERED by the Spirit, IN Christ, ²

They fulfil their TRUE NATURE AS SPIRITS

– Seeking completion and consummation

Through Loving Communion

With THE SPIRIT, who is God !

1 Poem 856, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, November 2007.

2 Eph 4:25

The Centering Spirit of Humanity ¹

*When WE, as graced spirits,
Commune with other spirits, human or angelic,
– By mutually chosen indwelling –
Obviously, we do so, centered by God's own Spirit
God's enabling, Centering Holy Spirit !*

*The experience of Communing, here,
Is sensed in its ULTIMATE expression
As oceanic feelings of togetherness
... Where fellowship becomes absorption
Into the Sublime Simplicity of God's Spirit
– Who, "is so pure, as to pervade and permeate all things
... Penetrating all intelligent, pure and most subtle spirits" ²
... Centering different spirits in different ways !*

*This Centering Spirit is the human spirit's integrative 'Centre'
Both in the order of creation, and in the order of GRACE,
–Both naturally, and IN CHRIST.
In the latter, one's imitation of Christ, and one's graced destiny
Meet, becoming one, IN the Spirit !
Here, human dignity is wholly experienced and fully realized ...*

*Through continually being led within, to this 'Centre', in our daily journeying home.
The person comes home to all divinely-human possibilities, implicit in his or her dignity ...*

As an en-Spirited brother and sister of Christ !

We also do this, AS A PEOPLE

– Coming home together to our collective dignity

... As those whom Abba has EN-PEOPLED as His very own ! ³

In a special expression of this,

Human parents CO-GENERATE with humanity's Centering Spirit

In the creation of another human person.

In doing so, this Centering Spirit is GENERATIVE of a new human SPIRIT

–Precisely, at the moment of conception.

The parents are generative of BOTH a bodily genetic contribution,

And MOST profoundly, for many, an invitation to a CO-SHARE IN THAT DIVINE LOVE

That so desires to create NEW LIFE !

Together with this NEW human spirit's OWN, IMPLICIT INCLINATION TO CHOOSE

To belong to God who is Life –

The Centering Spirit unites with the parents in a single purpose

... To form a new human person

–As another possible expression of LOVE AND FREEDOM

In the universe !

The deepest of all Mysteries,

Is that having been gifted with Communion

In the Centering Spirit who is One,

We can further experience, and have confirmed by Scriptural Revelation,

That the One, IS, in deepest Reality,

Three Persons living out Their Oneness in surpassing Fellowship !

This Fellowship – by Their sheer wondrous, loving Gift to us –

They CHOOSE to live WITH us, and IN us !

*Through utter love,
They choose to live out Their ETERNAL FAMILY LIFE
WITHIN us, and WITHIN all receptive en-spirited reality,
IN CHRIST !*

1 Poem 857, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, November 2007.

2 Wis 7:24, 23 3 See NOTE Poem 168.

Journey into Faith : Love's Seven Overtures ¹

—Based on Peter's journey into faith ... Mt 14:22-23

—LOVE READIES US FOR CONVERSION—

Life's storms buffet our hearts. ²

Though we might cling to each other for comfort,

We are often adrift AS INDIVIDUALS,

Disconnected from each other ...

Each locked within one's own insecurities.

We are, deep down,

Fearful of a future

Marked by lovelessness.

Pummelled by such insecurities,

We become superstitious ...

Latching onto instant explanations and solutions

— "It's a ghost !" ³

... As we try to 'divine' a path into a future, full of unknowns !

Our looking for a SAVIOUR ⁴

Out of this predicament,

Is the very OPENING Love seizes upon ...

—LOVE'S FIRST OVERTURE —

*Love takes the initiative,
And announces His PRESENCE*

— “It is I !” ⁵

... *Echoing Yabweh's revelation to Moses*

Tell my people “I AM has sent me to you”. ⁶

Love's Presence is both calming — “Do not be afraid”, ⁷

As it is comforting — “Take heart !” ⁸

All of this affirms us with an experience of Communion

— “I am with you”, ⁹

... *An experience of INTIMACY,*

Into which Love yearns to attract us, FOR GOOD !

Truly, it is Love

Who plants the seed for our faith to develop.

—LOVE'S SECOND OVERTURE —

Time passes.

Insecurities and doubts re-enter our hearts

— “Love, IF it is You ... ?” ¹⁰

With bravado, WE seem to take the initiative

— “TELL me to come ... “ ¹¹

Yet, Love again reveals itself,

By quietly re-issuing the invitation to Communion

— “Come” ¹²

... *An invitation we could MISS,*

If we're distracted by the squalls of life.

Nonetheless, the seed of a trusting faith in the Other,

Begins to SPROUT ...

—LOVE'S THIRD OVERTURE —

Time passes.

This overture come to us in SILENCE.

Love re-assumes the initiative,

By showing itself CLEARLY to the seeker,

As the PERSON WHO BECKONS US to fellowship

... The One to whom we “start walking towards”,¹³

... The One on whom we fix our gaze.

Faith, stirred by this SIGHT of its LOVER

Begins to BUD, on the still young plant of faith.

— LOVE'S FOURTH OVERTURE —

Time passes.

Ambivalently, our QUEST FOR GUARANTEES from LOVE,

For a trust that is somewhat tentative,

Slowly emerges

... As we again seem to seize the initiative off Love.

We take our eyes Love,

Fearing “the force of the wind”¹⁴

... Even though Love's own gaze is fixed

Faithfully on us.

We try to walk the journey by our own efforts.

In response Love's overture is, again, a SILENT one :

It is Love's BEING THERE,

Love's simple assertion of PRESENCE.

Yet, in the midst of our ambivalent trust,

We PANIC ...

Pressured, BY FEAR, to abandon ourselves to Love

– “Love ! Save me !” ¹⁵

Imperfect though it is, the emergency helps deepen our faith,

As our sub-conscious knows, from now on

– ‘Love WILL BE THERE!’

So faith begins to BLOSSOM

... A faith, while highlighting dependence on Love,

Still remains fragile.

–LOVE’S FIFTH OVERTURE –

Here, Love clearly assumes the initiative,

And, in an overflow of compassion,

HURRIES to our rescue

– “Jesus put our His hand, AT ONCE, and HELD HIM !” ¹⁶

Again, Love’s overture is SILENT, but is revealed

Through Love’s PROACTIVE INTERVENTION

... Knowing that we, at least are READY,

To have Love enfold our will, within its own.

As we finally surrender the initiative to Love,

Within our hearts – as with Peter’s –

Faith now begins to FRUIT ...

LOVE'S SIXTH OVERTURE —

Love now CONTINUES the initiative,

And begins to TEST our faith, so as to validate the genuinness

... Of our exclamations of constant thankfulness for being saved,

... And of our many promises of reform and faithfulness.

Time passes ... before we hear ...with our conscience

— “O You of little faith, WHY did you doubt ?” ¹⁷

In the period that follows, our ‘fruiting’ faith

Has to WITHSTAND —

Inner spirit-buffeting by life’s winds !

Inner drying out of our emotions by life’s sun !

Inner lashing of our mind-sets by life’s storm-rains !

However, all of these can become, THROUGH GRACE, accelerators of growth in faith :

—Life’s buffeting winds can STRENGTHEN OUR HOLD on Love’s branch,

—Life’s drying out periods can READY US TO THIRST for Love’s living waters,

—Life’s lashing storm-rains can boost deep reservoirs of grace,

All, allowing Love’s Life to flourish !

In these ways, Love reveals its purposeful plan

To prepare us for CONSTANT COMMUNING

—By robustly enhancing

Faith’s full-fruiting potential !

—LOVE'S SEVENTH OVERTURE—

Here, both Love and Love's disciples act in concert,

Revealing Love's Glory

... Through Love's DEFINITIVE calming of the storm within us, ¹⁸

... And through Love's re-vitalized disciples GLORIFYING Love,

For all the world to hear

— "Truly ! You are the Son of God !" ¹⁹

Indeed, Peter's, and our, faith has arrived

At the GENTLE CERTITUDE OF DEEP FAITH

... The very FRUIT of our faith, coming to full maturity.

Here, its sugars — the consolations of true Communion —

Fill the tissues of our ripened faith,

... Setting them aglow with colour

... Sweetening them with fragrance.

These are sure signs, clear signals, for Love, the harvester,

To pluck the sower's — Love's — now ripened produce

—So as to begin the cycle again, in others

... For truly, 'Love is glorified in her children !' ²⁰

1 Poem 858, Second Annual Retreat, Marian Valley, late November 2007, Day 1.

2 Symbolized by Mt 14:24 3 Mt 14:26 4 Cf Mt 14:30 5 Mt 14:27b 6 Ex 3:14

7 Mt 14:27c 8 Mt 14:b (NRSV) 9 Note on Mt 14b : this being a literal translation.

10 Mt 14:28a : 'LOVE' substituted for 'LORD' 11 Mt 14:28b 12 Mt 14:29a

13 Mt 14:29b 14 Mt 14:30a 15 Mt 14:30b 16 Mt 14:31a

17 Mt 14:31b (NRSV) 18 Cf Mt 14:32 19 Mt 14:33 20 Cf Lk 7:35

Your Eagerness for Intimacy ¹

Heart of our hearts ...
O how I sense Your closeness –
Your constant pursuit of my heart !
Gentle but insistent,
You seek not to disguise Your affection :
Your quest for my spirit is simple, open, and obvious.

Your memory fondly re-visits
Each of my timid approaches,
Every tentative opening of my heart.
Whatever my response to You,
You search, indeed long for, opportunities
... To offer Your tenderness,
To demonstrate Your eagerness for intimacy.

Mostly,
You knock at my heart's door
–Unambiguous in Your overtures of love –
Hopeful and excited !
Indeed, when my heart resists,
You besiege me
–Not to overcome, but to seduce,
To elope with the ambivalent captive within !

So close You are ...
At times I FEEL Your breathing,
Turning ...
I'm drawn into eyes
Yearning to embrace
... Steady, joy-filled, free-ing eyes.
Indeed, wherever I gaze, I see Your Face
—Open, inviting, loving,
Yearning for companionship.

Occasionally,
The passing gift of Your Presence
... The seeming caress of Your hands
Cupping my face ...
Edges me ever so close.
You even drawing me closer ...
Into the encompass of Your Breath,
Into Your Spirit-Kiss,
Into Enrapture
... Where I am Your willing captive !

Folio Forty-Four

Folio Forty-Four

Poems 860-879

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Less and Less ¹

“Go and bathe seven times ...

If the prophet had asked you to do something difficult,

Would you not have done it ?

... So he went down, and immersed himself, seven times, in the Jordan

... Go in peace.” 2Kg 5:19

Naaman was determined to “do something difficult” for God

... To do, as it were, MORE and MORE

– To have HIS efforts MATCH God’s healing efforts !

Yet, he is gradually persuaded to do the understated, simple things

... To do, as it were, LESS and LESS

– To allow God’s healing bounty to far outweigh his little effort.

And, moreover, he is persuaded,

Not by Israel’s King, Jehoram, nor even by the Prophet Elisha,

But by his wife’s serving girl !

Thus Naaman is CALLED, to look not for more and more power and prestige,

But for LESS and LESS ;

To look not to a king, not to a prophet, not to an authority figure,

Not to his consort, not to a male, not even to an adult ...

But to a female ! A slave ! A mere girl !

Moreover, his bathing was not to be

A singular, eye-catching, dramatic gesture

But SEVEN, common place washings !

And humbler yet, to do so, NOT in a significant river

... Like the Abana or Parpar of Damascus ...

But in Israel's much lesser stream,

The Jordan !

Truly, in God's thinking, less is more :

Yahweh was engraving on Naaman's heart, the message –

“God's ways are NOT our ways”,²

... To become LESS and LESS

–So God becomes MORE and MORE !

Naaman was indeed RESPONSIVE to God's invitation.

He DID humble himself – “He went down ...”,

And he underwent a total transformation

– “He IMMERSSED himself, SEVEN TIMES”.

Moreover, as with Jesus, to be IMMERSSED was to be BAPTIZED,

And Naaman's SEVEN immersions indicate a whole and complete change.

So too for our conversion :

Our journeying into faith,

Our being immersed – EN-PERSONED – in the Risen Christ,

Is truly a call

–To less and less power, possessions, and pleasuring,

To assert one's self less and less,

To speak less and less,

To BE less and less ...

Only then, will God's 'Shalom'

Be ours

... As it was for Naaman :

"Go, IN PEACE".

Within the Sheepfold ¹

Love, eternally invites :

' COME ...

As family to my Beloved !

FEEL His Easter Joy !

SHARE His Paschal consciousness !

CO-EXPERIENCE His Wondrous Ascension !'

Yet,

In this era of the Spirit

–With the Glory of grace REVEALED, but STILL TO COME –

We, as Jesus' failing brothers and sisters,

Stand humbly below His CROSS

... Our hearts pouring out their eucharist of love !

In doing so, our hearts soften,

So Love can re-shape them, AS HIS BELOVED'S

–Wholly transforming us.

Now, with our hearts' NEW ears,

Love bids us

' LISTEN ...

To the SHEPHERD CALLS of my Beloved.'

For Love knows

.... Hearts can easily turn FICKLE

... Hearts can easily HARDEN

–Causing Love to sicken with anguish for us,

As for a CRUCIFIED ONLY SON !

So, if we stay within the sheepfold of the Beloved's care

–Not initiating changes, but trusting

In the Beloved's HOMING instincts –

The sheepfold becomes a Fellowship of Trust,

A Circle of Love

... Where OUR hearts

LIVE !

In the Service of Your People ¹

O Abba of all tenderness,

Gentle my heart ... Make luminous my spirit ...

In the service of Your people,

So that You behold Your Beloved in us all,

And delight in-us-in-Him !

O Lovable Abba, CAUSE TO GROW within me –

A forgiving heart, emptied of envy, soft with compassion

A God-seeking heart, alight with a child's simplicity

A pure heart, to see You in everyone and in everything

A vigilant heart ... to watch, to wait ... in silence, in stillness

A strength of spirit ... to accept suffering, with a Eucharistic heart

A humility of spirit, ablaze with courage ... to love what I hate in myself,

And to love those, who wrong or grieve me.

A liberty of spirit ... to accept joy NOW – as the touch of Fellowship Eternal !

O Spirit of Abba, draw me into the heart of Your People

... Together, to praise Your bountiful Love !

The House of Love ¹

“I REJOICED when they said to me –

Let us go up to the house of Love !” Ps 122:1

The house of Love, for me,

... Is an unpainted wayside barn.

There, we the needy of God, one twilight,

Were gathered in, by the SAME good news

We’d heard on the way.

Within a forgiving circle of listeners, and through shared hurts,

We began to tell the SAME story ...

About a guy in his thirties,

Who’s always there

When times are rough on the track ...

Even though he himself has a weeping wound in his side,

With an attached surgical bag.

Then, as we sit down to eat our wayfarers’ bread,

HE comes in late, sits and listens.

Our group is slowly transformed :

The ones MOST moved by the acceptance they’ve felt, suggest we pray.

We do. Simply and heartfelty.

Our feelings deepen.

*Then a couple get up,
And begin to SERVE us some wine they'd been keeping.*

Others draw out more wayfarers' bread

From THEIR packs, and go and share

With those with none.

A few begin to hum

The songs of the track.

Soon we are singing together.

The meal draws to a close

And then, most transforming of all,

Some SACRIFICE their sleeping places

For a disabled couple, and for a pregnant single lass

—BECAUSE, the fellow in his thirties

Had begun to wash the ulcered feet

Of an older woman who was slow of mind,

But also, of a gangly youth who was deeply depressed,

And who had a badly cut foot ...

Silence filled the barn with warmth :

Our hearts were CENTERED on what we'd witnessed.

Love closed our eyes that night ...

Love Calls : Our Eucharistic Response ¹

*Our yearning for Love,
Our calling TO Love,
Is but an echo
Of Love yearning for us,
Of Love calling TO us.*

*When LOVE calls
... If our heart is empty of self ...
It RESONATES ... indeed, it RINGS FORTH JOY
As our response to Love ...
Mirroring Love's depthless joy in us !*

*More. Jesus Ascended has sculpted OURS
To be Eucharistic hearts :
He yearns for us –
To Eucharist our every deed to Abba
To Eucharist all our feelings ... our passion for life
To Eucharist all our relationships
And, it is His brotherly, deepest DESIRE
That our Eucharistic hearts
Enable us to COME TOGETHER, IN HIMSELF,
In the Fellowship of Love
Wondrously united in the Spirit !*

Faith Works through Love ¹

“Faith Works through Love.” Gal 5:6 (N.R.S.V.)

While, through the SAVING, ENABLING WORDS of God,

Faith NOURISHES all receptive hearts,

It is LOVE that increasingly GATHERS all these separate hearts,

TOGETHER in Christ !

It is LOVE that ultimately ENERGIZES them –

To CONSENT together, to Abba’s invitation to unity

–Each one’s faith enhancing the others’ !

To CONTEMPLATE together, Abba’s loving compassionate Face

–Unifying them, ever more, as brothers and sisters of Christ;

To COMMUNE, with all God-seeking hearts, with Abba in the Spirit

–Church-wide, world-wide, creation-wide !

To COMMIT together, to be united, witnessing hearts

–To the Fellowship of Love ... evident in lives, lived in harmony;

To BE EUCHARIST for others ... SELF-SACRIFICING TOGETHER in the Spirit

–Lighting up others’ lives, to do the same !

Thus, faith ...

Working through love :

NOURISHES together

GATHERS together

CONSENTS together

CONTEMPLATES together

COMMUNES together

COMMITTS together

EUCHARISTS together.

At-One-ment ¹

*To enable us to live
Eucharistically,
Jesus draws us into AT-ONE-MENT with Abba :
Surrendering His Humanity for OURS,
To unite our humanity to God
And thus, to en-Spirit us
With a share in His Divinity !*

*To REALIZE this union with Abba,
Jesus invites us to CO-ENTER
Eucharistically
Into His suffering for our brothers and sisters,
And, with Him, ultimately ...
To TRANSCEND their, and our, suffering.
Through Jesus, we are drawn BEYOND suffering (even, if still present),
Into COMMUNION with Abba.
Here, within this Divine Fellowship ...
Pain loses its power,
Joy is ever-present !*

*Therefore, Jesus' SURRENDERED humanity
Is itself the bridge
To His, and our, experience
Of AT-ONE-MENT
... Of Communion with the Divine.*

Embraced As Family ¹

The Fellowship of Adoptees

Is a graced Fellowship !

An open Fellowship, and enfleshed Fellowship !

Open to all whom the Spirit chooses

To gather into the community of the Church

... En-Personed in the Ascended Jesus !

... Embraced AS FAMILY by Abba !

To Humanize Divinity ¹

In enfleshing His Divinity, within our humanity,

In incarnating Mystery, within our ordinariness,

In embodying Eternity, breath, by breath within time,

Jesus

Humanizes Divinity :

Wherein – Divine love pulses forth in human heart-beats ;

Human suffering MOVES the Divine in Him, to CO-SUFFER with us,

So that, IN Christ, our pain is FELT within the Divine;

And God experiences infinite humility in choosing

To be lovingly, freely constrained within our humanity.

For all those IN Christ,

Love, born in God's Divine heart,

Works through God's human heart

... To empower and transform humanity,

So that man restores to man

The gift of Divine Life ...

Wherein man leads man

Into the heart of God !

Though DIVINIZED ...

– Still we quiver ... on the threshold of the Divine

... ‘Surely God’s loving us, could not be so lavishly excessive ?’

– Still we quaver ... on the edge of terror

... ‘Surely, WE do not choose, AS GOD, when IN Christ,

Much less, IN Christ, TO BE GOD ... to God ?’

– Still we hover, in doubt, as we RATIONALIZE

‘It’s only metaphorical; it’s just poetry ...’

But, just as, for Jesus, human experiences were mystifying,

Reflecting the fact, say, that God really did NEED to sleep ...

... So in us, Divine attributes are not at all evident

–Even as, IN Christ, we too, BREATHE THE SPIRIT into those we forgive !

Yet, to the measure that our faith

Depths the REALITY that ‘God becomes man’

To the same measure, will our faith be fired

By the REALITY that ‘Man becomes God,’ IN Christ !

If God becomes man

To unite with us, AS AN EQUAL,

Must not we, in all simplicity, rejoice –

To unite with God as LIKE TO LIKE ... IN Christ ?

It’s the face of this utter, primal DIVINE REALITY,

That we so instinctively withdraw from !

That we so shake our facile confidence !

We baulk, we blanch ...

At the INFINITE REALITY of ‘Man becoming God,’ IN Christ !

*In truth, it is not an experience
That we could ever become used to,
Precisely because, it is not just an EXPERIENCE,
But an IDENTITY !*

*Nor is it an identity WE assume,
But an identity we are DRAWN INTO*

*– “Nobody can come to me,
Unless My Father draws him”.²*

Moreover, this identity is not even subject to OUR awareness :

*Indeed ‘OUR’ consciousness belongs ONLY to Christ
– “Let the SAME mind be in you, that was in Christ Jesus.”³*

To be fully, humanly ALIVE-IN CHRIST,

Is to offer our humanity

As God, to God, IN God.

It is to share in the Circle of Love :

God who gives, God who receives, God who is Gift !

Thus, the glory of humankind

Is God, fully alive in humanity !

¹ Poem 868, Year 10 of Prayer Ministry, Gold Coast Holidays, January 2008.

² Jn 6:44

³ Phil 2:5

Abba Is All ! ¹

Jesus' response to His desert temptations has several faces :

To the FIRST, Jesus' faith-filled response is to choose the way of the Spirit

... Openly asserting the PRIMACY of God in all of life,

And refusing to follow the SELF-INDULGENT ways of the flesh.

To the SECOND, Jesus truly affirms our human giftedness as FULLY GRACED,

Being Himself, wholly absorbed in exalting the Divine

... Dismissing all fickle appeals to His Abba-God to intervene needlessly.

To the THIRD, Jesus is wholly single-hearted in His responsiveness to Abba,

Rejecting both the lure of riches, and the vanity of power

As empty substitutes – for His consuming relationship with Abba !

¹ Poem 869, Year 10 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, February 2008.

NOTE: the poem is a response to Mt 4:1-16.

To Be a Paschal Heart ¹

To be a Paschal Heart :

... Is to co-suffer with Jesus FOR ALL, with His open-heartedness,

And with our desire for them, enshrined within Abba's Desire ;

... Is to be re-born spiritually, into a new humanity and dignity,

Into a new consciousness, and new identity,

–All sourced in the very Person of the radiant Risen Jesus ;

... Is to thrill to THE ENRAPTURE, within the enveloping arms of a loving Abba

– As the Gift of the Spirit ... SEALING the Ascension of our humanity ...

Gloriously unfolds within-us-within-Christ

– Both, as a community, and personally !

Your Fiery Finger upon My Heart ¹

*When, in the past, I did less than love-my-enemies,
My heart's spiritual energies short-circuited themselves :
... Rendering, much less open-hearted, my ministry of prayer,
... Lessening ENGAGEMENT to the wider community of life IN Christ,
... And reducing my personal focus and heartfelt endeavours,
To self-generated activities and to old, SAFE relationships .*

*But then, Abba, You ALWAYS gently INTERVENED.
To this heart-escape of limited vision and restricted growth,
You reached out, from Your home, deep within my spirit*

Placing Your Finger on my heart

– Your Spirit of Renewal –

Regenerating it, re-releasing its graced energies.

This seemed like a climax of years of prompting ... because Your Touch

Was on the very day of my heart procedure,

When, literally, my heart was FIRED ... ²

And AT-ONE-MENT became Your gift to me !

From Your Beloved's Paschal woundedness, it seemed,

Jesus' energies flowed within MY spirit-wounds

–Recreating, renewing my heart's graced senses.

Indeed the ears of my heart seemed re-attuned ...

To Your compassionate voice, CALLING TO ME from others :

*... In the whispers of those sidelined, or vulnerable,
And in the prayerful pleas of other pilgrim hearts.*

One of this AT-ONE-MENT'S special gifts, was my heart's SEEING ANEW

... The Image of Your loveliness, in Eucharist .

Seemingly sharing in Jesus Ascended's sensitivity,

I was able

To witness to some friends' deeper motivations

... How, for instance their hearts radiated

The CLEAR IMPRESS of the Cross.

Thus, like those similarly graced –

The 'other' became our Brother,

The Church, more a Mother,

Our faith ... our sacrifices

More like Jesus'.

1 Poem 871, Year 10 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, February 2008.

2 NOTE: On the use of "FIRED" :

On St Valentine's Day, February 2008, because of my decades-long inclination to heart palpitations (when over heated or dehydrated), because of a 'faulty-firing' atrial valve, the surgeon inserted a probe in a vein in my groin area, moving it to the heart. He noted the fact that the electrical node in the top half of my heart, having 'fired', passed not ONE but TWO currents of electricity to my bottom half, thereby setting up a closed electrical circuit ! This not only made my heart inefficient, but also caused my atrial valve, at times, to malfunction ... thereby causing possible life-threatening palpitations (earlier, four times, my heart had to be chemically stopped, and be allowed to reset itself !).

The surgeon then electrically heated the tip of the probe, and used it to cauterize (or 'FIRE') one of the electrical currents' entry areas, through the flat muscular tissue that separates the top and bottom halves of my heart, This "firing", or cauterizing, thus ELIMINATED 1. the inefficient short-circuiting effect 2. all palpitations and 3. my atrial valve malfunctioning. Truly I was gifted with a wholly renewed heart !

God Loves : Therefore We Are ¹

*The Mystery of Love that is God
Is made accessible, and able to illumine our spirits,
WITHIN THE REVELATION of the Paschal Mystery.
Yet, to thus experience this singular Wondrous Mystery,
Is ours ONLY through GRACE !*

*This Mysterious God of Paschal Love
Centers all life,
All our loving
... Overwhelmingly, without our awareness.*

*Life is NOT "I think : therefore I am", ²
Nor even, "I love : therefore I am"
Because WE are not its CENTRE.
Rather ...
Life is "God loves : therefore we are".
Equally true is "God loves : therefore we love".*

*Yet, we still can choose to love, or not to love
... Because, the Mystery of Freedom
Exists within this Mystery of Love.
Thus, to choose not to love is to exercise freedom.
Yet, NOT TO BE FREE is to BE UNABLE TO LOVE.
Thus, TO LOVE, is to BE WONDROUSLY FREE !
That is, TO BE OF GOD !*

1 Poem 872, Year 10 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, March 2008

2 Descartes

Healed Together ¹

*To be baptized into the faith of the Church,
Is to be immersed in the fellowship of service
– Of those gazing with compassion upon similarly wounded hearts,
Becoming one with Christ' Healing Presence
... There to be immersed in the grace of being healed TOGETHER .*

¹ Poem 873, Year 10 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, March 2008.

Your Heart, House, City, and People ¹

Abba, O Abba

*Let me be to You this morning, within this Eucharist –
A HEART as lowly and tender, as Your own Beloved's
... So lovingly reflected in Mary Magdalene,
As she kissed His feet, with tender lips,
And tenderly, ever so tenderly, caressed them with her hair.*

O let me be to You –

*A HOLY HOUSE of prayer, suffused with longing
... An echo of Your own yearnings for me;
A HOUSE of contemplation
... With that gaze, that gentlest gaze
That You, with beautiful love-lit eyes, like Your Son's,
So trustingly coax forth from me.*

O let me be to You –

*YOUR HOLY CITY aglow with devotedness,
... Swelling other voices and hearts, in whole-hearted praise
Settling silently, into ever deeper peace ...*

O let me be to You –

*YOUR HOLY PEOPLE, lovingly aroused with zeal,
... Impassioned for all that is Yours!
Aflame with Your surpassing Fellowship!*

¹ Poem 874, Year 10 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, March 2008.

NOTE: used as a Eucharistic prayer by the author.

The Gift of Yourselves ¹

O Abba, Dearest Dad,

In this Eucharist

Thank You for the gift of Your PEOPLE ...

And you, brothers and sisters,

In this Communion,

Thank you for the gift of YOURSELVES :

– For the gift of your SPIRITS,

As TOGETHER we come alive

In the Spirit of the Beloved !

–For the gift of your MINDS

As TOGETHER we are configured

To the Beloved's mind !

– For the gift of your HEARTS

As TOGETHER, our conjoined heart

Loves as our Beloved loves !

–For the gift of Your BODIES

As we tenderly CO-EXPERIENCE ...

God alive in US !

We EN-PERSONED in God !

Eternity EMBODIED within !

– And for the gift of our Brother's PRECIOUS BLOOD

Coursing through His, and thus our PERSONS ...

Reviving us together !
Nourishing us together !
Transforming us together !

Brothers and sisters, with heartfelt affection, I thank You

... For thus being TOGETHERED,

... And for who you are to me

–And I to you –

Abba's Beloved !

Breather of the Spirit !

The Transformation of Suffering ¹

All suffering needs to be brought

To the Eucharist

– To the Paschal Mystery, sacramentalized –

To be transformed .

There, we are transformed IN the Paschal Jesus,

Whose whole life is CENTERED on love

On sacrificial love .

Jesus' Paschal loving supplies all of our suffering

With a LOVING, ENABLING, HEALING CENTRE,

Who offers Himself

As a GIFT, to every sufferer .

Thus, as suffering's CENTRE,

The Eucharistic Jesus

LOVES all of our relationships INTO LIFE,

FREEING each relationship ... be it even to inanimate Creation ...

To radiate ALL with the wholesomeness

Of the Paschal Christ !

*This transformation of our suffering
Sees us drawn into the Beloved's Paschal Feast of Grace,
Wherein Abba invites us, IN Christ,
– To the Wedding of the Divine with the human
... To taste NOW within time,
The wondrous Gift of Eternal Health
– The Spirit of Divine Fellowship !*

Revolutionizing Suffering ¹

“Jesus made suffering a FUNDAMENTAL means of salvation”. (Ben XV1) ²

*In overcoming evil with good,
... The good pouring out of the heart of our crucified God,
THROUGH US ...
Sacrificial love REVOLUTIONIZES suffering,
Transforming our IDENTITY into Christ's ,
–Christ giving all
... On the Cross
... And as the Ascended One
Within the Trinity !*

¹ Poem 877, Year 10 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week 2008.

² In Observatore Romano, 2008.

Faith Blossoming into Love ¹

A lived faith

Necessarily blossoms into love ...

Because, God whose Presence we simply KNOW, in faith,

Is also the FOCUS of our faith

Both AS Someone to be ever more UNDERSTOOD,

... And AS Someone who PERSONIFIES LOVE,

Overflowing KINDNESS, and COMMUNION .

A Triune Triumph ¹

O Father of the Risen Jesus,

Fire our consciousness,

So we may adoringly utter

Your Renewing Word

With the deepest AWE

... For as we proclaim

Your Enabling Easter Word,

It is given Voice

While being gloriously embodied

Within our lives !

Yet, this is only obvious –

To hearts of faith !

To Regenerated hearts !

To Resurrection spirits !

O Risen Jesus,

Breathe through our minds,

Illuminating our perceptions,

So we may embrace each ...

As our RISEN BROTHER IN THE OTHER !

As a RISEN DAUGHTER IN OUR BROTHER !

... *And, in dis-covering* THERE,

The imprints of Your Wounds ...

To salve and caress them

With Your regenerating JOY !

O Spirit of Jesus Risen,

Inflame our spirits, stir our hearts ...

To resonate with Alleluia lives !

Accompany us, as our whole 'heart-world'

Thrills with Your Glorious Vitality !

And exhilarates, to BE UPLIFTED

Into the Arms of Love,

Into the ecstasy, the Enrapture

Of Your Sublime Fellowship !