

Called to *mystical* Attentiveness



Priority
M1
STORIES

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Deepening in Members their commitment in Christian discipleship

In my personal journey, I am always seeking peace. It is not a peace characterised by an absence of conflict or pain but a peace that allows me to live with a sense of perspective and calm in a confusing world...a peace that affords me a little more control when I am challenged.

And it is a peace that allows me to see beyond now; that in my mortal life I am part of a bigger universe.....a joyful, eternal, unending space. The challenge for me in my spiritual life is to more fully experience that space.

So as a lay Marist I think I have got a calling to mystical attentiveness because I have this unresolved wish to find that key...I want to be uplifted, I want to feel that joy and I am prepared to work to find it. It has become part of my life to contemplate this 'unknown', this mystical realm.

I guess this interior journey is always happening to some degree even if I am not consciously engaged in it. But having said that, whenever I can, I like to practice a more dedicated contemplation, because I have learnt that I get closer to my goal with a certain effort and purposefulness. I think the result is more fulfilling if I commit to the voyage.

May I add that, for me, contemplation is not always the same activity; rather, it includes mental exercises like imagination, meditation, prayer and even day dreaming. And I am expecting that if I do one day 'get

there' the experience will be cognitive and visceral. I will know it and I will feel it.

But even with concentrated effort sometimes my goal is elusive. At other times I think I get closer to it and sometimes so close I can almost touch it. But I never totally reach my 'destination' and maybe that is how it has to be. Maybe mine is not a goal to be fully accomplished? If the mystery was completely revealed, might my journey then lose its purpose? I don't know but in the meantime the possibility of one day reaching my goal is tantalising, enough so to keep me trying.

So I guess I connect to priority M1 because it speaks to me about an internal, personal and private encounter with the divine. It seems to capture what I think is true about my spiritual self and so I can relate to it. Ironically it talks to a certain restlessness in me but also to a desire for inner peace.

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