

Thanksgiving 1995

*I never saw a moor,
I never saw the sea,
Yet I know how
the heather looks
and what a wave must be.*

*I never spoke with God,
Nor visited in heaven,
Yet certain am I of the spot
as if the chart were given.*

Emily Dickinson

Dear Friends,

We at Martins go into the season of darkness, giving thanks for Faith. Faith, a word at times so fashionable, at other times said quite cynically: faith in governments, faith in religions, faith in other people. What I want to share with you today is having faith in Faith.

To some of us faith means belief in a higher power sometimes spoken of as God, or the Great Creator. For other traditions, it is a Oneness, Harmony or Balance. I am speaking of all these things and much more.

Faith is one of those wonderful experiences in life that can never be proven, can never be put into formulas or rules, and can never be given to another. It is that unique relationship each and everyone of us has to God.

Faith gives meaning to our lives. In each of us lies the spark of the divine which lets us know at any moment what we are made of. We are made up of the seeds of God and with that awareness and faith, we can each live a life closer to God. Closer to God means, whatever life throws at us, what ever other human beings say or do, we know that God is inside of us.

I have come to plead with you for a renewal of faith in Faith. This thing which we so easily forget, should be the first thing on our lips and out of our mouths. There is a higher order. There is a harmony that includes all of us in life and death. How quickly we slip into forgetting this. As human beings we may never get to understand our world and the things in it rationally.

Our faith is most tested when we reach the depth of darkness and despair. Faith allows us to go through our lives surrounded by confusion, hopelessness and depression and still know that our life and our actions have meaning. Each and every one of our choices does matter. Faith allows us to live with the fact we are not in control. It is imperative that we embrace faith. When you want to give up, when you do forget, this is especially a time of faith. Faith is accessible to all of us at all times.

It is crucial that we believe. Through suffering, lies, hate, or pain, we must have faith. We are faith. In our very souls calling out each second is the music of faith. Listen to it. Dance to it. Live by it.

Of course I sound naive and unrealistic. In a world that believes the only reality is the one that humankind can prove or own, at Martins we live in a world, where faith is the air we breathe, faith is the food we serve, faith is the rhythm of our days and nights. Faith is the reality we strive to live in.

Martins is a place of faith, not just in our crews, our guests, our supporters, but in God. Of course we fail over and over, but our faith is something we try to hold fast to always. We stumble, we fall, but someone, or something is there to remind us of this practice of faith. It is inside you. Listen.

At this time of Thanksgiving, we at Martins give thanks for the gift of faith. May we always share it with you.

In God's Light,

Barbara

Barbara Collier

for the Martin De Porres Community