

Reflection Questions from the meditation on 2 Advent, December 6, 2020

Set aside perhaps a half hour to be alone and in silence in your home or outside. Begin by asking God to guide you as you reflect on these questions. These are not designed to create guilt. Instead to simply be aware of what you learn and to discover the next steps Christ might invite you to take on this inward/outward journey of your relationship of love with God and your neighbors.

Question #1: Make a list of ways you have seen Jesus showing up in the past 9 months, in your personal life, in our nation and world.

Question #2: How has your connection with God has changed in the last 9 months? To answer this question, draw a line down the center of the page and make 2 lists. On the left side is List 1: In what positive ways have you grown and deepened in your connection with God? On the right side is List 2: In what was have you drifted away and find yourself feeling less connected with God in your daily life?

Question #3: How will you prepare yourself to receive Christ in online Sunday worship?

Question #4: On Monday to Saturday, how have you been praying at home during the last 9 months? What changes might God be inviting you to make in the way you pray each day?

Question # 5: What have you been reading and learning in Scripture to prepare you to receive and share Christ in your life? What changes in your interactions with the Bible could help you grow more in the coming months?

Question #6: Make a list of the ways in which you have reached out to help others in the last 9 months. Then begin a list of additional ways and additional people God might inviting you to reach out to, to prepare the way for them to experience Christ's love.

A prayer for living in wilderness days and seasons:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton. in Thoughts in Solitud