



Peak Encounter Monthly Reflection

All Weather Journaling

Allowing God to come close.



by [Heather Makowicz](#) on March 03

This past Friday morning, I stopped over at the Daylesford Abbey, to drop something off. It had been snowing all night and into the morning. The snow continued to fall when I arrived when I dropped off the borrowed Ethernet cable. For a brief moment, I hesitated to continue on with the day. Looking around at the white, pristine ground of new fallen snow, I was drawn to take a small hike on the peaceful grounds. With the snow falling, not-too-frigid temperatures, and breathing the fresh air in the silent surroundings, it allowed me the space to take in the gifts I had received from God the day before.

I had the privilege of leading a sophomore all-girls high school retreat in Kansas City, Missouri. This retreat, which I prayerfully decided to give the theme, “Jesus is Real, Relational, and Relevant” was

coordinated by a very talented young campus minister who had a passion to create opportunities to encounter Christ. When planning the retreat, besides my talks, we decided to incorporate witnesses from five classmates, along with a forgiveness exercise, Mass, and Adoration. I found as the day went on, I started to feel a love for these young ladies, much like a motherly love desiring the best good for their children. I had a deep concern for their relationship with Christ, a hope and exhilaration watching their fellow classmates leading by their example, and having fun in the “off times” by sharing a dance from the 80s which is once again popular...the “Running Man”. We laughed so hard and the joy shared was tangible! It never ceases to amaze me, as I mentioned in a talk, that often “sometimes, people don’t come to the God they DON’T see, until they see God in the person they DO see.”

Let’s fast forward once again to this hike. As I walked, again pondering on the gifts received, I decided to extend my small hike to the pond. There, at the pond, I was mesmerized by the Canadian Geese at rest in the frigid pond while the snow continued to fall. While at rest, they were enjoying the weather they were made for...the cold! In a sense, they were at peace by being fully who they were created to be... to stretch this a bit further, they were living their “vocation.”

At that moment, I reflected again about my vocation of motherhood. Sometimes, I can resist this tremendous vocation, because I am human. More times than I am willing to admit, I can resist the daily mundane domestic chores needed to keep a house running smoothly (hmmm...maybe I need a little more Martha ;)). When I do accept the small, hidden acts of service, and reorient my thinking that each act is an act of love and prayer for my family, I am at peace. This is one of the greatest gifts we can receive from God, when we are open to receiving it. In Kansas City, I was able to express the love of Christ, most profoundly, through the gift of my motherhood. I asked God to forgive me for the times I have taken this gift for granted, and I thanked Him for the opportunities to share the light of Christ to others through this privileged vocation.

Invitation:

In prayer, ask God to give you the desire to receive the vocation He has called you to right now well (marriage, motherhood, fatherhood, single, consecrated, priest, or religious).

Ask Him to help you uncover resistances you may have to accepting this vocation. Be open to a conversation with God about these areas which make this vocation hard for you right now.

Pray for healing in those areas mentioned, for the grace to remember the gifts when living the vocation given well, and for the desire to want what God desires for your life.

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Your Holy Spirit animates, illuminates, and enlivens us in living our lives with passion and purpose. Your Holy Spirit heals, brings peace, and a joy when we allow ourselves to acknowledge our challenges and, in those places, to be transformed. May we always remember that our vocation is our evangelization, given as a gift from you to share with the world. May we go forward with this gift, knowing you are with us all the way. In Jesus for these things we pray.

Amen.



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