

Monday Quotes



Grain

“Mary’s song is not just an expression of her own private experience, but a joyful proclamation of how God lifts the humble high and exercises justice.”

Dr. Anna Marie Aagaard

Field

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Luke 1:46-55

Thoughts

Recently for the first time in many years, I visited a retreat center where I lived for a while in my 20's. The center draws people from a variety of traditions but has a clear Catholic identity. Just as I recalled, at the end of the evening worship/meditation, we sang an almost haunting chant about Mary in Latin. The words emerged slowly and quietly out of the silence as though they were meant to seep beneath and through your consciousness. It was at this retreat center that I first paid attention to Mary, at least after learning what the Latin meant. The chant had elements of the Magnificat (Mary's Song) from Luke's text. But why that focus? Who was Mary? What did she symbolize?

The questions about Mary come up again when we learn that it wasn't that many years ago when authorities in some Latin American countries forbade the public reading of the Magnificat, or when a Sri Lankan priest, Tissa Balisuriy, was disciplined after writing his book *Mary and Human Liberation*. What had the people tapped into to offend certain authorities?

Danish Theologian Dr. Anna Marie Aagaard claims that Mary has been co-opted in many Protestant churches to seem like a cold pale blue statue that makes everyone paranoid about their own humanity, or someone to write off as left behind during the Reformation. However, for Martin Luther, she was a powerful symbol of how God operated in the world. Aagaard says, "That God would work God's drama in this way, through someone whom the daughters of Annas and Caiphas probably would not have even employed, says a great deal about God and God's justice."

What messages about our value and how we regard others in our private lives and in society do we focus on? May we be graced to hear a response in Mary's Song. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org

All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy