

Our Graced Moment: Some Reflections on Our Personal & Brigidine Life

February 2014

after you have come this far

maybe you feel deserving of a little something more for your years of living
- where it led you
deep into amazing mazes and back alleys
following unending keening into places where as guest,
you lived and were loved into a new version of yourself
in the sheltering space of others

after we have come this far

how do you remember what brought us together
women as different as the passions that sent us
out to places and edges or the dead centre
carrying our books, our baskets full of bread
and enough conversation to both light and clog
the narrowing way to the common well.

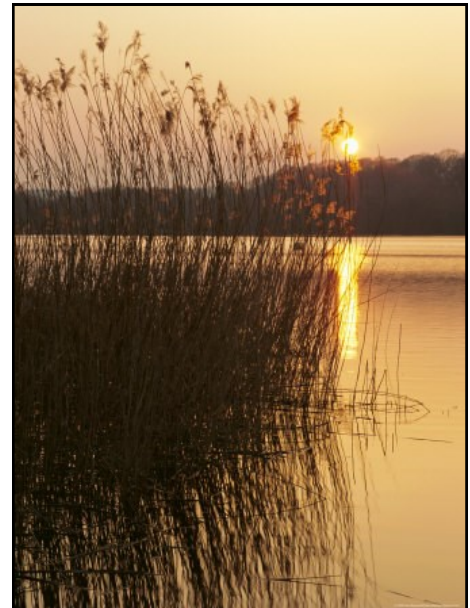
then after coming this far

through the loosening warm embrace of years
and substitutions of memory for presence,
we notice frayed edges of a favourite garment
or a small tear left untended
and table stories from mission well worn from repeated telling
we feel a chill around us, coming upon us
in trading heirlooms for voice
and now is the time when faith costs us the rare coin.

Even when so much is ended
and we find ourselves in another new and foreign land
do you notice how the wind still provides
- moving the waters once more,
reminding us it is time to move forward, expectant

after we have come this far

dare we tell each other what still holds our hearts
calling us together in hope
and to reach out again with love
when everyone tells us it is not possible
to still break stones and serve them as bread. *(Adapted from a poem by Deborah L. Humphreys, SC)*



- * In what ways does this poem reflect my life "this far"?
- * In what ways does the poem reflect our lives as women in an apostolic religious Community across the past 200 years?
- What challenges do I sense we as Brigidines are facing given our current and changing realities?
- * What life have I experienced in integrating pain and loss?



**“God will not break the bent reed or put out a flickering lamp:
God will bring lasting justice to all.”**

Isaiah 42:3-4