

Friends of Silence

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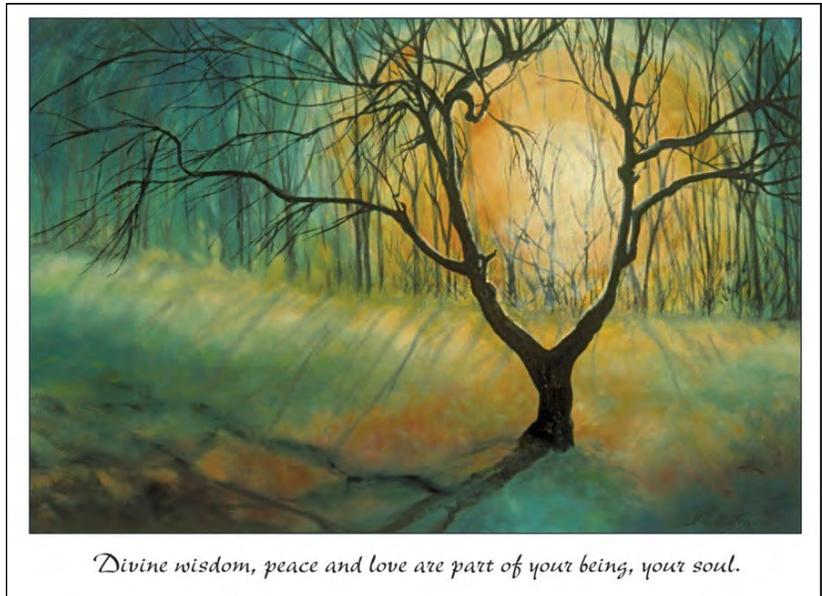
“Is there enough Silence for the Word to be heard?”

Dear Friends ~ As I write, the wind stirs leaves barely tinged with autumn color as a steady rain soaks into the earth so recently parched by summer’s sun. On the cusp of seasonal change, the land seems poised between fecundity and hibernation. So we too live our lives poised between action and contemplation, in that silent space of longing, expectation, and hope. Wisdom is both a mystic’s way of being in that sacred space and a gift of the spirit that we seek to cultivate. According to psychologists, wisdom “involves an integration of knowledge, experience, and deep understanding that incorporates tolerance for the uncertainties of life...and it confers a sense of balance.”

“All About Wisdom” at
Psychology Today.com



“We are knee-deep in a river, searching for water,” writes Kabir Helminski, a contemporary Wisdom teacher in the Sufi lineage, using a vivid image to capture the irony of our contemporary plight. The sacred road maps of wholeness still exist in the cosmos...But to read the clues it is first necessary to bring the heart and mind and body into balance, to awaken. Then the One can be known—not in a flash of mystical vision but in the clarity of unitive seeing.



“Divine Wisdom”
Artist: Joyce Huntington
joycehuntingtonart.com
Courtesy of www.stjoseph.org
Congregation of St. Joseph

~ Cynthia Bourgeault in *THE WISDOM WAY OF KNOWING*

Wisdom abides in deep recesses of the heart;
who is at home to receive Her?

~ from *LUMEN CHRISTI...HOLY WISDOM* by Nan Merrill

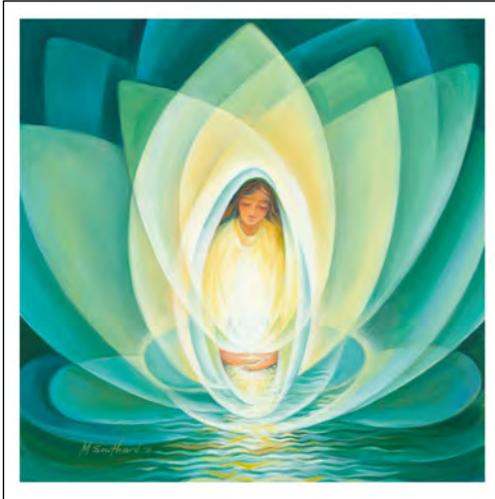
Wisdom without love is like having lungs
but no air to breathe. Do not seek wisdom in order
to acquire knowledge but in order to
live and love more fully.

~ from *MY SECRET IS SILENCE: Poetry and Sayings of Adyashanti*

Wisdom is the Oneness of
Mind that guides and
permeates all things.

~ Heraclitus

"Divine Light" ~ Artist: Mary Southard, CSI
Courtesy of www.MarySouthardArt.org
Courtesy of www.MinistryOfTheArts.org
Congregation of St. Joseph



Who is wisdom and where is it to be found?
Wisdom comes with the ability to be still. Just
look and listen. No more is needed. Being still,
looking, and listening activates the
non-conceptual intelligence within you. Let
stillness direct your words and actions.

~ from *STILLNESS SPEAKS* by Eckhart Tolle

I believe we are all called by many names, and
that the names we are called are directly related
to our destiny... The discovery of our destiny is our unique contribution to wisdom.
When we achieve a sense of wisdom, we will reflect it and shine as both image and
likeness.

~ from *CALLED BY MANY NAMES* by Margaret A. Renner

What does it mean to be made in the image
of God?... In part, it is to say that wisdom is
deep within us, deeper than the ignorance of
what we may have done or become... When
we lose touch with the wisdom that is within
us, we live out of ignorance... Grace is given
not to implant in us a foreign wisdom but to
make us alive to the wisdom that was born
in us.

~ from *CHRIST OF THE CELTS*
by J. Philip Newell

A holy and disciplined mind turns
from ignorance and falsehood,
ignoring their myriad distractions,
while the soul stands firm, allowing
Wisdom to have her way.

~ from *WALKING WITH
WISDOM* by Nan Merrill

Mystical wisdom derives from an ardent
desire to abandon normal intellectual
functions so that divine insight may enlighten this ardor and add to it another fire,
much stronger, which lifts the burning soul towards an even deeper wisdom.

~ Hugh of Balma in *LISTENING TO SILENCE*, compiled by Robin B. Lockhart

Only in the oasis of silence can we drink deeply
from our inner cup of wisdom.

~ Sue Patton Thoele

Wisdom teaches us that arriving
at the Truth is experiencing the
graciousness and loving kindness
of God.

~ John Main

Along the way to knowledge,
Many things are accumulated.
Along the way to wisdom,
Many things are discarded.

~ Lao-Tze



Apologies: In last month's
newsletter, we mistakenly
attributed the lyrics of "Be Not
Afraid" to John Michael Talbot.
Bob Dufford, SJ, wrote both the
music and the lyrics (based on
verses from Isaiah) for the song.