

## Fifth Monday of Lent ~ 3/26

"Then they said to Him, 'Where is your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.'"

(John 8:19)

Intimacy is a gift to be treasured. It is not something that one can fully describe or understand. Unfortunately in our culture we have too often associated the term *intimacy* exclusively with sexuality but intimacy is found in all types of relationships. Intimacy is most concerned with knowing the deepest aspects of another's spirit. To know another's spirit is to know the ground of his or her being, that aspect which is the foundation of all thoughts, dreams, and decisions.

When Jesus tells the leaders of the Jewish community that He knows His Father He tells them that He has an intimate relationship with His Father. He also informs them that if they knew who He was then they would know the Father as well, since He is a complete reflection of His Father.

Aren't we are like the leaders of the Jewish community; we have never seen the Father? In fact, we may feel like we are even at a greater disadvantage than the Pharisees and scribes since we have never seen Jesus either. Yes, we do have the scriptures and historically we know that Jesus did walk the earth but it is difficult to really know someone simply through the written word, without having personally met Him.

Interestingly enough the faithful followers of Jesus have learned to look beyond the historical Christ to find the living Jesus in the world today. Those who have worked the ashes of their lives into the soil of the kingdom see how the Body of Christ is living and growing in the world around them. They see miracles performed in the name of Jesus; they witness compassion and mercy graciously extended to those who need it most by people that by the standards of the world should be seeking vengeance instead. And they see the passion of Christ not on a movie screen but in their families, their communities and even in their own hearts.

Every time that a person experiences the love, the compassion and healing power of Jesus we also experience the spark of the Father's eternal flame. Every time that we witness a person giving up their life or freedom for love of their neighbor we experience not only the suffering and dying of Jesus but also the agony of a Father who loves that person as intimately as He loves His Son.

### *Questions for Reflection*

- 1. Have you met Jesus in the world around you? Have you found the suffering Jesus?*
- 2. What words describe the Father for you? Have you known Him intimately?*