

World Enough and Time #4

Bob Burcaw

In early November, I had the opportunity to spend a week in our mountain home in the Blue Ridge Mountains, NC, outside of the wonderful small town of Sparta. I missed a splendid fall show of color as the last leaves reluctantly fell around our second-floor deck projecting into a forest of pine, oak, and ash. Normally, the winter scene is too bleak for most folks, but I have an MV apartment that looks out over roof tops to the distance hills sloping into the Lehigh River. I see the crowns of three trees (species unknown) from my Crow's Nest balcony where, in late fall, the only birds making any noise are crows. I must say their nesting nearby in the old Nisky Hill Cemetery with its ancient trees is welcome to these old ears that love to hear birdsong, even the raucous cries of crows.

I am finding more and more in my time of life that I am paying more and more attention to the little things that afford a degree of pleasure which counterbalance the strident world of the social media, the TV and radio news, and the raucous sounds coming from our politicians. I have learned more and more the value of laughter and the necessity to have a sense of humor so that things can be minimized, if not annihilated, when civility and sane discussion seem to have disappeared from the cultural scene. I have always been an avid reader, but lately I find escaping into a good novel is about the best therapy one can get for free. I am currently lost in a story which covers that period following the appearance of Jesus that brought Christianity to light in a dark, violent, and brutal world of pagan gods and a

world dominated by male superiority. Currently I have just been introduced to Lydia, the first European who converted to Christianity. The clash of cultures brings home the message about man's inhumanity to man rubbing up against a religion that purports to preach the gospel of love.

To share these thoughts with my readers is another pleasure that I find makes my life at the Village worthwhile. Thanks for your feedback.

SPIRITUAL LIFE PRESENTATIONS

March—April

2nd Wednesday of each month

2-3 p.m. in the Dining Room

The purpose of the ongoing series is to introduce different spiritual traditions and explore various questions concerning contemporary beliefs. Everyone is welcome.

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| March 8 | Presbyterians
Dr. J.C. Austin
First Presbyterian Church,
Bethlehem |
| April 12 | Roman Catholicism
Fr. Kevin Nadolski, OSFS
Vice-President for Mission,
DeSales University |