

Thanksgiving

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, I was attending the monthly meeting of my faith sharing group in the home of one of our cohort of six. We rotate homes and have been meeting for 24 years so we know each other well and are indeed friends. In the living room where we were meeting, my line of vision drew me to a lovely painting of a single heron floating in water surrounded by sea grass. The colors were soft and I was captured by the stillness, the aloneness of the heron, the light touching the sea grass. As we were leaving, I mentioned to our host what a lovely painting it was and how I was drawn to its beauty. She thanked me for noticing and shared what she knew about the artist.

Late the following afternoon, I returned home after a day at BC teaching and meeting with directees. Against the door of my apartment was a package containing the painting which had so quieted me, drawn me in, with a note from my friend..."It would bring me great joy, if you continue to enjoy this painting as my gift to you."

First, I was embarrassed. I certainly did not intend for her to take this piece of art off her living room wall and give it to me!

Soon, I was captivated not only by the painting but by the utter generosity of my friend.

The gratitude I felt was not simply for the gift but for the giver. Gratitude expands my heart and offers me a bigger God, one that reminds me gifts are freely given and unconditional.

As Mission Helpers, we are "friends in the Lord" to one another. This Thanksgiving, may our friendship with one another expand our hearts, give each of us a glimpse of a bigger God, and fill us with gratitude for the gift of friendship that lives among us.

May we know deeply the Giver of all Gifts, delighting in both giving and receiving. And, may we seek out what makes us kinder, what opens us up, what brings out the most loving, generous and unafraid version of us...and go after those things as if nothing else matters. Because actually, nothing else does.

Blessing upon Blessing this Thanksgiving.

With gratitude,
Sr. Clare Walsh, MSHH