

August 27, 2017

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor. For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be honor and glory forever.

The Eclipse of the Sun

That was quite an experience this week, wasn't it - the eclipse. How many of you saw it? A Jesuit scholastic, John, and I sat on the deck and watched it. We saw about 99% of the eclipse. It was marvelous. We only had one pair of glasses, so we cut it in two so we both could watch.

Last Sunday, we considered how extraordinary phenomenons of nature can be considered manifestations of God, popularly called, Shekinas. That's what the extraordinary events in the bible were considered, manifestations - Shekinas - of God, such as the parting of the Red Sea and Jesus' miracles.

How many of you saw the eclipse? How did it affect you? Was anything changed in you? What did you become especially aware of?

Community-Sharing

A Larger Presence

Whenever we look at something from a soul-level, we become aware of a larger presence with us, around us, in us. It's called contemplation. Contemplation is our true nature and condition. It happens quite easily when looking at something like the eclipse, the ocean, and so on. Contemplating is simply a looking at some reality for its own sake without trying to fix it, solve it, or make it go away. This practice helps us become aware of this larger presence in whatever we do, wherever we are. Imagine the difference this would make when confronting the struggles and hardships that come our way in our lives, our communities, our country, and in our world.

Even in Prison

I see this happening with inmates in South Fork Prison Camp east of Tillamook. They look about and see broken people and broken situations all around them all the time. But they also learn to see that there is a larger goodness there - with them, around them - and in them.

**Let us remember that hard times are merely a temporary eclipse of God,
and that God always soon re-appears. It is called Faith.**

I wonder why it is so difficult for us to remember this?