

August 21, 2021

Letter to the Az Branch of COTL from Provisional Coordinator Tom Pivonka

Brothers and sisters:

“Life is Difficult.” So says M. Scott Peck in the first words in his classic book – “The Road Less Traveled”. He then follows the opening 3 words with this: “This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult – once we truly understand and accept it – then life is no longer difficult.

Praying this week about this letter and leading the upcoming gathering I was taken back to a memory of a retreat several years ago.

I’m not sure exactly when it was, but I know it happened at Living Water Retreat center.

When I go on retreats I generally don’t sleep very well, and often wake up early. This particular morning it was still dark when I got up, so I put on my warm clothes, grabbed my flashlight and rosary and went for a walk. Walking along the river is so peaceful and tranquil. As I was walking and saying my rosary I noticed that the beam of my flashlight was pretty narrow and not at all bright. I could see pretty well just a few steps in front of me, but my distance and periphery was very limited. So of course any time I heard something or saw something move out of the corner of my eye, in my mind it was a bear or a mountain lion.

Later in the day when I was safe from predators, I started to reflect on what the Lord wanted to show me through this. The word I got was that I needed to continue walking, even if I did not see clearly in the far distance. The Lord was asking me to just keep moving. He indicated that sometimes we may be walking and have amazing vistas and see far up the path, but sometimes we will just see the next step. Either way we are to be certain that He is with us each and every step.

There are also things that I can do in order to improve my vision. I can put new batteries in the flashlight, or spring for flashlight from somewhere other than the Dollar store. I can also walk in the LIGHT!. In Community we are called to be light for each other as well as for the world around us.

Our world today is crying out for the light that we possess. The Lord sends us people daily that need what we have. This week take this to your daily prayer, ask the Lord to give you eyes to see the hurt and the need around you, and the strength, and courage to share the light you have been given.

I will end this letter in the same way that I have ended my previous ones. Praying about difficulty and light led me to a song from long ago by Kathy Troccoli called “Go Light Your World”

*There is a candle in every soul  
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold  
There is a spirit who brings a fire  
Ignites a candle and makes his home*

*So carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
And hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world*

*Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to  
Light his own candle some other way  
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to  
Still holds a candle without a flame  
So carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world*

*'Cause we are a family whose hearts are blazing  
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky  
Praying to our father, in the name of Jesus  
Make us a beacon in darkest times  
So carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the helpless, deceived and poor  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world*

*Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it.  
Take your candle, and go light your world*