

Advent 2015

You are not just the recipients of the Creator's beneficence, but participants in the ongoing renewal of creation.

Michele Bisbey, CDP

Yes, we have received the beneficence of the Creator's generosity, in all of creation. As I traveled here in Indiana this fall, so many times we saw the harvest being gathered, farmers riding their equipment, gathering the corn and beans in fields to the horizon, and in other places workers picking the squashes and pumpkins. It was a generous harvest this year.

And in other ways, we gather the beauty of the Creator's beneficence, the awesome beauty of sunsets and storms, of wildflowers and hummingbirds, of the sun's energy and warmth. All day long, every day, the show continues, if we just have eyes to see. (Even as I sat here at the computer, thinking this through, the sunrise was awesome, though ethereal, changing from moment to moment.)

But this generous beneficence also reminds us of our own part in it all. We are not just recipients, but also participants, not just outsiders, but a part of the whole. When the people asked Jesus, "What must we do?" he answered, "Anyone who has two tunics, must share with the person who has none, and those who have something to eat must do the same." We must care for one another. Not just with the family, not just with the neighbor who lives in the house next door, but with the neighbor who lives on the other side of the world, in Syria or Afghanistan, refugees from the Middle East to Europe, or people in our own country dealing with injustice and poverty. What can we share with them? What can they share with us?

This Advent of this Year of Mercy, let us remember that Jesus and his parents were homeless and refugees in a foreign country, fleeing from danger. Their story is being repeated constantly. What is our part in it?

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