

Lenten Reflection

Monday, February 29, 2016

By Sister Linda Hylla, CDP



I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country (LK.4:24)

It is said that truth is found in the most unexpected places and from the most unexpected individuals. Yet this truth is rarely accepted and falls on hearts made of stone, eyes that are blurred, and ears congested with prejudice and bias. How do we remain open for transformation? As a child, I remembered being told that children were to be seen and not heard from unless spoken to....by a respected adult. As an adult looking back at this statement, I am not surprised. Children were not accepted as messengers of God. They were the property of their parents and had the role of obedience to stay silent. How often do we silence those whose wisdom is difficult to hear? We discount their experience, question their influence or doubt their ability to know the Way, Truth and Light of Christ.

We see through literature that the humble of heart become the hero or heroine. They carry the truth within them and their actions speak louder than the empty words around them. Their actions are vehicles to bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to the captives, new sight to the blind and set free the downtrodden. They are often despised by those minds, hearts and wills that are closed. We see this revealed in the Wizard of Oz. Dorothy, a lost child, finds her voice and her truth. She is called to become individuated and know her place in the world. She confronts the odds and of course we have the wicked witch that loves controlling all that is around her. Dorothy has dropped a house on Wicked Witch's sister and revenge is right around the corner. Yet Dorothy has a mission! To get a heart (open heart), courage (open will), and a brain (open mind) for her friends she must confront the Oppressive Force. This force exists within each of us and if we don't monitor it, it oppresses those around us. Oppressive energy within us is the thirst for power and the absence of vulnerability. When we are afraid, we want to control all that is within us and around us. The Wicked Witch wants to destroy the most vulnerable of Dorothy's peers first. The scarecrow is threatened with fire. Dorothy, the heroine, takes the living water of baptism and throws it on the witch. She melts and destroys the wickedness.

Now she must confront Oz who represents the masks we wear. Jesus and Dorothy are the featured characters who are confronted and confront those with closed minds, closed hearts and closed wills. It's time to take off our masks and reveal the authentic self. There is no need to hide, control, or destroy with our words and actions. Let us welcome the prophets among us.