

## **Random Harvest**

Uncertain about what to write about, I decided to take the coward's way out and serve my hungry readers with a dish of "random" bullet bits. But as He always does, just as it looked like I could only serve up cold left overs, who should come to my rescue but God's faithful little servant, Father Cedric.

An allergy attack had me giving up trying to sleep, so I tuned in to see what was playing on TBN at 6:10 Sunday morning. Instantly, Father Cedric's words gave me a perfect theme to explore. "Live in the now," because "the kingdom of Heaven is "at hand." That is, present tense, in us now. He also mentioned Jesus' shortest sermon, three words: "Remember Lot's wife."

It was she, who regretting their leaving the smarmy life-style of Sodom, looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. "Regrets, she had a few." Cedric then taught on the futility of ruing the loss of the "good" life you had, and start being thankful for the blessings we still have.

Lately, given the contentious atmosphere of the warring political factions I see on TV, I have all but lost any hope of our coming election's saving the country from the present administration's complete, ongoing disaster on nearly every front. The economy is a mess, with grocery prices going crazy, suicides are multiplying, Israel is still under siege, the border is still wide open, and incumbents are licking their chops over all the votes they can garner by offering taxpayers-funded freebies to as many invading aliens as they can finagle into voting. If the present leadership stays in power, our children's future looks dark indeed.

But, said Father Cedric, if we open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit and let Him remind us how much God loves us and wants us washed in the flood of His son's unfailing loving kindness and tender mercy, we can enjoy renewed hope.

There truly is hope, if we look not on the troubles down here, but fix our gaze on Jesus,"the author and finisher of our faith," who "for the joy that was set before Him, (our joy) endured the cross,"... winning for believers the only victory that truly counts, salvation. And remember, "where evil abounds, Grace does much more abound."(See Hebrews 12:2) and Rom. ch5)

And speaking of grace, I think a miracle of grace is at work as the Min. Lynx of the WNBA entering the play offs. Cheryl Reeve, their coach, just named coach of the year, seems to have inspired a new "deep bench" approach to winning games. Not depending solely on her starters, Collier, McBride, Carlton, et al, but at the first sign one of them is slipping, Reeve plays subs off the bench who, given their big chance, contribute with confidence. The starters, led by Collier, "defensive player of the year,"set the winning tone, and the 'fresh legs' off the bench sustain the attack.

I watched game 1 last night, and it was unforgettable. The first half was a literal clinic great passing. This sharing is the gift of the star of the team, Napheesa ('Phee') Collier, who her teammates say is the most humble, selfless and sharing superstar ever. Collier scored 23 points in the first half, ending with the Lynx leading by 21. But The Mercury, led by the great Diana Taurasi, playing possibly her last season, fought back to lead by 1 point with 2 minutes to go.

Then Collier's grace prevailed: "It's just staying calm in those moments," she said after. That calmness inspired her teammates to finish with an 11-3 run, with Collier sinking 4 free throws and helped by threes from McBride and Bridget Carlton's clinching deep 3. Many teams would have panicked in that situation, but Phee's calm leadership catalyzed her teammates into an amazing win. Phee finished with 38 points.

Flash! I just watched game 2, and Phee played one of the finest games I ever seen. She scored 42 points and had countless assists and rebounds. That means the Lynx will advance to play Connecticut this coming Sunday.

Phee was runner up for mvp in the WMBA. After last night she deserves a better title. I like "Grace Personified." Her reviews were "rave" all the way.

Gene Pinkney      Daily News    24-09-26-