

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024

Awaken

My eldest sister, Luci, visited my home last summer for the first time in our adulthood. Luci's in her 70s and I'm in my 60s. It's been a half-century since we spent a whole week together like this. That's how life goes: marriages, distances, and years can keep us busy and apart from people who are important to us.

Having adventures with my big sister again last year made me feel like the young girl I was the last time we did such things. Time has passed, and our bodies let us know that we can't stay up all night talking like we used to. But while I was smiling back at my smiling sister for days on end after all these years, something woke up in me. I woke up to the central truth that love really is what lasts, just like Saint Paul says. Time, distance—these are petty things in the light of love. Like the man born blind who sees, or like Nicodemus standing in the radiance of true teaching let yourself awaken again to the light.

Alice Camille, Our Lenten Road to Holiness: Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions (Waterford, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2024). Used with permission.

Questions To Ponder:

Who is a person who you have lost contact with in your life?
What would it mean to re-establish a relationship?

If you needed to define love to another person in just a couple of sentences, what would you say?

What do you need to awaken to in your life? How will you manage that?

Lectio Divina: Read John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Reconnect with a person whom you have lost contact over the years. Send an email. Make a phone call. Better yet—do it the old-fashioned way and write a letter!