

Spiritual Reflection – July 2014

The Virtuous Life of Mother Frances Streitel

The word *Virtue* means a particular moral quality which is derived from the Greek and Latin *virtus*. Virtue is the disposition of a person to do good rather than to be distinctive; true excellence. Virtues are all the consistent practices that lead a person on the right path.

Mother Frances' life was always guided by a great love and dedication to prayer and adoration of the Eucharist. She spent many hours of the night in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist and daily Mass were very important to her as these were where she was given the needed strength and consolation for her life of sacrifice and self-denial.

From Mother Frances' life, we can see her practice of *humility*, her desire to be humble in order to get closer to God. There was always room in her heart and care for the little ones as she recognized their limitations, weaknesses and mistakes.

Through her life of *faith* she was convinced that God guides everybody to the good, to the best. With this belief she continued to grow in trust and total abandonment to God while asking for the grace to be always guided by Him and His Most Holy Will.

She always showed her *complete trust in God* as she tried to honor him in all things. Her wish "*come what might, to belong wholly to God*" remained always strong inside her. She knew that with God's help she could stand firm, strong and faithful to the purpose of her life. She experienced Divine Providence in everything, and Providence was never absent.

Today, it is up to us to spread the charism of Mother Frances, to keep it renewed and strong, and to put it into practice according to today's needs. We are in contact with the realities of our modern world in which we need to exemplify the living example of Mother Frances so that we can get close to the humanity of God, our Father, with due consideration to the signs of our time.

For reflection:

How do we put into practice these virtues today?

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