

Spiritual Reflection - January 2014



A Solid Rock in Holy Church

“.... I would hope to become that which I am not now, but could be by cooperating with the grace of God: a solid rock in Holy Church.” (Mary Frances of the Cross Amalia Streitl, **Letters to Father John Francis Jordan 1883-1885, 16[7] - Rome 2013, p. 64**)

As I meditate a bit about rocks I remember how I loved to collect stones as a child and Wisconsin is a wonderful place to do just that. I had a shoebox full of glittering stones that I enjoyed and shared with my friends.

Then there was a small psalm book popular after Vatican II with simple incomplete drawings. The one that struck me the most, at that time, was Psalm 18:3 *“I take shelter in him, my rock, my shield, my horn of salvation, my stronghold and my refuge”* (**Jerusalem Bible, 1966**).

Mother Frances became that solid rock for the early sisters as they struggled and grew in numbers and works. Through her writings, I have come to appreciate her life always fixed on Jesus, like Francis and Clare. She was firm and solid, even when battered by adversities from friends and foes. When unsure of anything, Mother Frances took it to prayer and that is where she was, when she was deposed.

Sr. Bernadette Marie Palma, SSM