



“The Caring Heart” Mother’s Day 2020 Notes – by Rev. Dr. Kristina Collins

Some definitions of love:

- When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know your name is safe in their mouth. Billy, age 4
- Love is what’s in the Room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen. Bobby, age 7
- My Mommy loves me more than anybody. You don’t see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night. Clare, age 6
- When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you. Karen, age 7

“The hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” - Joseph Campbell

We are hearing a lot of recognition of the heroism of our medical community, and I want to particularly acknowledge nurses today.

Mother love - Kali Hindu Goddess - fierce love - like mother bear or other animals guiding their children.

Florence Nightingale and Mother Teresa, both of these women loved so much that they did what was the compassionate thing even as the authorities around them tried to suppress them. So the subject is really about the strength and passion within compassion as we are drawn to serve others.

Florence Nightingale - 200th birthday May 12

Born in Victorian times when a woman of her social stature was to marry and have children, Florence defied convention and comfort to follow her “calling”

She wrote “God spoke to me and called me to his service. What form this service was to take the voice did not say.”

At the time she wanted to become a nurse there was no real schooling for nurses and it was considered a disreputable work suitable only for lower-class women. Her parents opposed her doing it. She went to school in Germany and served as superintendent of the Institution for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in London. (A hospital for governesses.) In 1854 British troops invaded the Russian held Crimean Peninsula. The British Secretary of State for War (Sidney

Herbert - a friend of Nightingale) dispatched her to the hospital outside of Constantinople. She met with resistance and opposition from the chief medical officer. More men were dying from the lack of sanitation than the wounded they had received. Her call becomes dedicated to sanitation and ventilation in hospitals to assist in healing.

she works in Britain for better conditions in hospitals and starts a school for nursing.

She wrote: "If I could give you information of my life, it would be to show how a woman of very ordinary ability has been led by God in strange and unaccustomed paths to do in His service what He has done in her. And if I could tell you all, you would see how God has done all and I nothing."

Mother Teresa

Also realized as a teenager that she wanted to be a nun. She went to Ireland to become a nun at 18 years old. (From Albania) Then to India to serve the poor. She left the comforts of her convent to serve in the streets of Calcutta. In 1952 she open the first hospice for the poor in Calcutta, which included some medical care and final comfort in all religious backgrounds for dying patients. She started the Missionaries of Charity in 1955 with 13 members which became an international organization with 517 missions in 100+ counties. She also had to fight the authority of the Pope and others in India to do what she did. But was passionate to call people to serve.

She wrote: "By blood, I am Albanian, By citizenships, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic Nun. As to my calling, I belong to the World. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus."

Men also developed compassion through their life experiences — former president **George W. Bush**:

"We are not partisan combatants," Bush said. "We're human beings, equally vulnerable and equally wonderful in the sight of God. We rise or fall together. And we're determined to rise."
"I have no doubt, none at all, that this spirit of service and sacrifice is alive and well in America."

These women taught that we are to care for one another - just as Jesus did. Let's recognize that we are all in this together and as the three musketeers said "One for all and all for one." Must be our motto.