

VIII. WE ARE CALLED AND GIFTED

April 25, 2023

Hymn

Simple gifts

Gather 748

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be;
And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed; to turn, turn, will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

Prayer

Leader:

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pray as one:

All:

Good and Gracious God,
We come before you as the community of St. Margaret of Scotland,
gathered today to pray a Novena for clarity of mind and heart
during this search for new school leadership.
We ask you, O God, for support and strength,
direction and guidance, joy and peace
as we seek to claim our gifts and hear your call.
Lead us the way we need to go, as our story unfolds before us.
We make this prayer, filled with hope,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

From *A Tree Full of Angels*, by Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, p. 15

The waters of baptism flowed over me
And no original sin was seen.
Rather, the Eye of God beheld
A tiny mass of bones and flesh
soul and spirit
infinite possibility
pure process
new, empty, and free,
free to choose
 good or evil
 light or darkness
 life or death
 grace or sin.

You are the salt of the earth.
But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?
It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;
it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.
Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father.

Questions for Reflection – *After leader reads questions, all pause to reflect during one minute of silence.*

- In what ways does the SMOS community help you to recall your “hidden splendor” and “call home your scattered powers”?
- What about the St. Margaret’s community is salt and light? How are we called to share it through the ministry of school?

Petitions

Leader: Christ hears and saves all who hope in him. Let us bring him our needs.

That our school will fulfill its mission by celebrating the gifts of the past and embracing the challenges of the future, we pray...

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That our children will fully develop their gifts and become responsible leaders and caretakers of our community, we pray... **R.**

That our community will respond creatively to the movements of the Spirit, discerning the signs of the times and interpreting them boldly, we pray... **R.**

For what else shall we pray?

Individuals may offer intentions.

Prayer of Saint Margaret of Scotland

Leader: Let us recall our mission as together we pray:

PRAYER IS PRINTED ON BACK OF COVER PAGE

Optional, following Novena:

Share your reflections from above questions, focused on the mission value of the day.

- Index cards available at the shared novena, or
- Email PraySMOS@gmail.com
- Comments received may be shared with the community and those who search for our new staff members.