

An ASC Legacy

BY SR. MARY KEVIN ROONEY, ASC



“What wisdom, gifts, or lessons have I received from our ASC Spirituality? What would I hope remains after I am gone?” Oh my! What an assignment! And in ONLY 1000 Words!

THE most incredible gift that colors my life has been my vocation, this call to live a consecrated life as an Adorer of the Blood of Christ in vows of celibate love, obedient love, and the love of a poor person who has received everything from God.

Every story has a “Once upon a time.....”, and mine is as shaky as can be.

The journey began from the foundation of faith instilled in us as children by our Irish parents. “If even one of our children would be a nun, if even one of our children would be a priest...” From an outright lie feigning a desire to be a nun, followed by another outright lie pretending I wanted to be one when there was a chance to “come clean,” I discovered I loved every bit of the life once I was “in.” (Obviously this is not the ordinary way of discernment, but then, who’s ordinary?)

Incredible graces have followed me through these seventy-seven years of vowed life. What did that entail? The journey continued with ongoing Catholic education from my sophomore year through a Master's in Theology, plus multiple workshops and ministry preparation for everything I was “sent” to do.

Historically in the saga of Religious Life over the centuries, I entered at “the peak” of religious vocations in the Catholic Church when vocations flourished. To be living in the Vatican II era and the reawakening of Church and Religious Life was an incredible grace! To be sent to Rome, the center of the Catholic world and the focal point of our international congregation, gave me a “hands on” (literally) access to the original documents of our ASC community, and later, to be called to serve at that very Center. The ministry of spiritual direction and retreat work allowed me to

serve our ASCs among so many cultures, customs, and countries. The gift of good health allowed me to be sent to serve among various religions, climates, and cultures.

With the updating of our Constitution, our Life Charter, by which we are called to live the Gospel, we find this wonderful definition of whom we are called to be:

*“Adoration is for us a love relationship with the Holy One
in whom we are made one with the communion of saints.”*

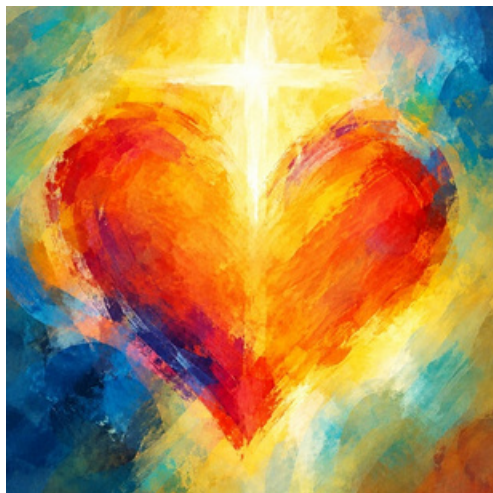
On the practical level, what does that mean? To grow in adoration means that our entire person, in all our relationships and circumstances, in all our sinfulness and giftedness, becomes ever more fully surrendered with Jesus to the Father for the coming of the kingdom.

Did you get that? Adoration includes our entire being, every relationship I have, every circumstance of my life, all of my sinfulness, all of my giftedness..... What is left????? We bring it all!

This was first shown to us in the way Jesus lived and loved: Jesus gave all, every drop of his blood. No wonder we are called Adorers of that love-sign. No wonder we need a lifestyle that wants to love in the same way...all! All! Not just a drop of blood, but all!

The phrase from Corinthians 4:7 comes to me very easily: “What have you that you have not received?”

So what wisdom would I share? That everyone should have the same experience as I? Not at all!



I would say simply:

Be TRUE to what you have received. God accompanies each one according to her story, her gifts, her particular struggles.

Be very faithful to that listening time we call prayer. God speaks. Trust the silence and wait. Then “Do whatever God tells you.”

Don’t allow your brokenness to determine your life. You have been loved to the point of blood-shed. Delight in who you are to God, in what you are worth – the Blood of Christ!

Whoever comes after me, this would be what I would want you to remember for yourself. This is YOUR story, this is YOUR God, this is your place in the journey, as one loved even to this measure!

Go tell everybody – by the way you live, by the way you love.



Questions for Reflection:

- Mary Kevin reminds us that our vocation is a gift to be received and lived. What wisdom, gifts, or lessons have you received through Precious Blood spirituality that have shaped who you are and how you live?
- How has the spirituality of the Precious Blood helped you embrace your own giftedness and brokenness, and how has that shaped the way you love others?
- Mary Kevin challenges us to share our spirituality not only through our words but through the way we live and love. What do you hope will remain as your legacy, and how can you embody that legacy in your life today?