

Gratitude is the heart's memory

REFLECTIONS FROM FR. ROSS

God's Wings



An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating image of God's love. When we read this and think about the Father forsaking his own child in order to save us, we get a picture of the staggering hugeness of the selfless and tender and personal love that God has for each of us.....

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.



The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.



“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.” (Psalm 91:4). This brings to mind the one of the hymns we sing, *On Eagle's Wings*.

Like those birds, we live in a world filled with many difficulties and dangers. But because of God's love

and the love we share with one another we find ourselves, safe, sound and alive. Isn't it wonderful to be the object of His love. Being loved this much should make a difference in our lives. Our response should be thankfulness and trying to love another as God loves us in Jesus our King.

Jesus is Lord

At the beginning of November, we remember our loved ones who have gone from us and toward the end of the month, we celebrate Thanksgiving. For those who have recently lost loved ones, this can be a time filled with mixed feelings and emotions. We find ourselves still grieving yet not without hope. We find ourselves perhaps a little closer to others and with a different focus as what is really important and worth being concerned about. We are reminded that no matter what happens, our God will never abandon us. We are reminded about what will really last and endure forever. God sent us his son, Jesus, that he might gather us together under the shadow of his wings.



May we be grateful for each moment we have; may we never take for granted those who bless our lives. Let's make sure that those we love, know that we love them. Let's not waste time or energy on worthless things. If we need to make peace with someone, let's not wait until it's too late. As we gather in these days of Thanksgiving, please know that I am so very thankful for all of you. It is a true blessing to be with you, praying, working and celebrating together; sharing our sorrows and joys, the difficult times and the happy times. If it is God's will, may we have many years together. ***I wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving filled with the Lord's choicest blessings.***

