

Landmarks left by people who went before ~ Midweek Reflection # 41, March 25, 2009

'you are the seeker's sure resource, of burning love the living source, protector in the midst of strife, the Giver and the Lord of life.'

~ Medieval, ninth or tenth century; tr. John Webster Grant. from "O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath.'

The French have a beautiful word for something each one of us needs today:

ressourcement. We do not need to know French to draw upon what the word means. It implies returning to a source, drawing on its depths and richness. The wise ones instruct us to think of sources not as wells or stagnant pools but as springs and flowing streams. During our pilgrimage of hope, we seekers will find nothing but spiritual drought unless we reach into profound sources for ressourcement. The soul that is cut from its divine rootage stands no chance to prosper. It will have no nutrients. We cannot go it alone. We set aside some moments each day to reflect on the existence of sanctuaries on the way of life. There pilgrims can retreat and be refreshed. We look at landmarks left by people who went before as they tried to image in wood and stone and glass what eternity itself cannot exhaust: the protective power of the Lord of life.

The source of such power is 'burning love.'

One would think that whatever burns would die out, leaving only ashes. The last thing we want of a day is ashes. We want and need fire and life and love inexhaustible. Precisely these are promised, sufficient for each day".

(Our Hope For Years To Come The Search for Spiritual Sanctuary Reflections and Photographs, Martin Marty and Micah Marty, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 1995

All of these meditations, for the last ten months, have been "reflections of some of the

Landmarks left by authors who went before. I have shared some of what God is teaching me in my devotional reading, with a few personal comments. Martin & Micah Marty's book on searching for Spiritual Sanctuary has afforded me many moments of feeding in green pastures and resting beside still and flowing waters while the Good Shepherd restores my soul. I would highly recommend finding a copy of this if your devotional life is stale or stalled right now. Micah's pictures of various sanctuaries and the short medita-

tions by Martin are linked with hymn fragments and appropriate scripture passages that provide quiet moments in the presence of our true Source of burning love!

“And I will ask the Father , and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever ~ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you will also live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” (John 14:16-20 NIV)

May the God of peace quiet your soul and provide ressourcement for your spirit.

Under God's Mercy,

Howie