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OUR PIUS UPDATE

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SHARING FULLY OF OURSELVES



The followers of Jesus shared everything in common after the resurrection. There was nothing lacking among them because the generous gave up all they had for the community. Yet, there is something even greater at work here. They didn't just share their physical possessions, they shared all of themselves. They completely belonged to each other. Their hearts were open to one another, and they shared their past sins with each other, their joys, their sorrows, their fears, their weaknesses. Many of us would much rather hold onto our secrets and move through the world without being honest with each other. We live in fear that if we share our belongings, our hearts, our pasts, or our fears, that those things will not be respected and as a result, those parts of us will be damaged. How can we more fully share ourselves with our Christian sisters and brothers?

-Alex Hale, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic from the Midwest Province studying philosophy at Loyola University Chicago.

PRAYER

Lord God,
remind us of how the early followers lived.
Teach us to be more vulnerable
with those around us and teach us
to hold the gifts of our sisters and brothers with respect.
That by giving of ourselves
we may receive and in living for others,
we may recognize that we belong to each other.
Amen.

-Alex Hale, SJ

SOURCE: www.JesuitPrayer.org

SEEING GOD AT WORK



When the daily news is filled with information about mass starvation, civil strife, looming war, violence in cities and homes, it can become difficult to see where God is working. Yet if we look carefully, there are many signs showing God's kingdom is indeed emerging.

- ★ God is working whenever acts of justice, kindness, and love are done.
- ★ God is working whenever there are prophetic words of truth spoken to correct the abuse of power.
- ★ God is working whenever quiet deeds of charity and mercy are done to those in need and pain.
- ★ God is working whenever someone courageously stands for truth against popular approval.
- ★ God is working whenever a person of power and prestige intentionally reaches out to help the less fortunate.
- ★ God is working whenever an individual refuses to compromise on principles and morals.

In every community and in every church, women and men are quietly working to do good. It is through their efforts that God's presence and kingdom can be seen and felt. They are the answer to the psalmist's prayer "*Complete the work that you have begun*".

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

*Eternal and glorious God,
I praise you for the gift of life.
Let me be included
with those who daily living
makes your presence real in our world.
VMP*

SOURCE: Daily Strength: One Year of Experiencing the Psalms, Victor M. Parachin

TOUCH



Michelangelo's *Pieta* is one of the great art masterpieces of all times. Portraying Mary and Jesus just after Jesus' body was taken down from the cross, it captures Mary's sorrow and Jesus' humanity in a way that leaves only the most hard-hearted viewer untouched.

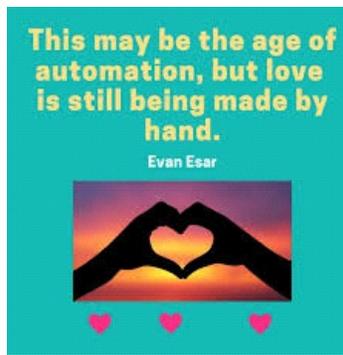
Perhaps one reason that the *Pieta* is so moving is that it shows the tender touch with which Mary held her son. All human beings need to be touched. Babies who are deprived of physical contact can't survive even if their other needs are met. Furthermore, studies have been shown that children who grow up in homes where affection is shown by hugs, back rubs and other nonsexual touching are less likely to become involved in each sexual experimentation. Because their innate human need to be touched is satisfied, these children are better able to differentiate between love and sex.

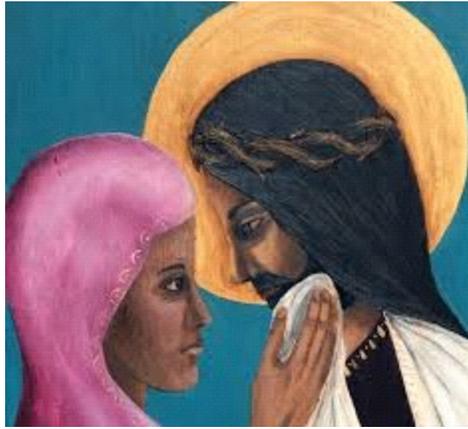
Unfortunately, modern culture has become so sex-obsessed that even the most innocent touch can be misconstrued. Some overly conscientious parents refrain from touching their children too much for fear of molestation charges. Friends keep their distance for fear of being though too forward. Co-workers forbear any physical contact for fear of being accused of harassment. The result is a society that's oversexed and undertouched.

While no one would suggest that you go around touching everyone you meet, practicing "safe touching" in the form of a hug, a pat on the shoulder, or a back rub is one way to "feed the hungry" in today's society.

How do I feel when someone I don't know well touches me?
How do I feel about touching other people in nonsexual ways?

SOURCE: [365 Mary: a Daily Guide to Mary's Wisdom and Comfort](#)
by Woodeene Koenig-Bricker





VERONICA

It's one of the most poignant parts of Stations of the Cross: a woman steps forward to provide relief to Christ by wiping the blood and sweat from his face with her veil. While we don't know for sure if this event occurred or, if it did, what happened to Veronica or the veil, the place where tradition indicates the encounter happened is marked with a plaque, and we honour his event in Stations of the Cross and by a feast day on July 12.

This story reminds us how small kindness - wiping a face, offering water to someone in distress, sharing some of our treasure - can mean so much to the recipient.

INSPIRATION

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "*It is more blessed to give, than receive*". (Acts 20:35).

CHALLENGE

Do one small thing for someone in need today. Perhaps it's spending time with a friend in the hospital, or offering a neighbour a ride to the grocery store. It doesn't need to be a big deal for you, but you may be surprised what a difference it makes for him or her.

SOURCE: [Sisterhood of the Saints](#) , Melanie Rigney

