

G R I S T

Diocese of New Ulm Social Concerns Office March, 2008

III. Live in Gratitude & Wonder

Sorrow can be alleviated by good sleep,
a bath and a glass of wine. *St. Thomas Aquinas*

Sing now, not in order to enjoy a life of leisure,
but in order to lighten your labors. You should sing
as wayfarers do – sing, but continue your journey.
Do not be lazy, but sing to make your journey more
enjoyable. Sing, but keep going.

St. Augustine

Joy is the carnal form of hope. *Georges Bernanos*

In eternity, everything is at the beginning,
a fragrant morning. *Elias Canetti*

The sabbath is a day of protest against the servitude
of work and the worship of money.
Catechism of the Catholic Church #2172

All the way to heaven is heaven.
St. Catherine of Siena

A little boy asked his mother for jam.
“Give me too much,” he said. *Chamfort*

Each time the future seems conceivable to me, I have
the impression of having been visited by Grace.
E. M. Cioran

Instead of getting to Heaven, at last –
I’m going, all along *Emily Dickinson*

In any instant the sacred may wipe you with its
finger. In any instant the bush may flare, your feet
may rise, or you may see a bunch of souls in a tree.
In any instant you may avail yourself of the power to
love your enemies; to accept failure, or the grief of
loss; or to endure torture. Purity’s time is always
now. “Each and every day the Divine Voice issues
from Sinai,” says the Talmud. *Annie Dillard*

Ritual allows those who cannot will themselves out
of the secular to perform the spiritual, as dancing
allows the tongue-tied man a ceremony of love.
Andre Dubus

The artist is like Sunday’s child – he alone sees
spirits. But, after he has told of their appearing to
him, everybody sees them. *Goethe*

A friend who was raised Roman Catholic and who
travels frequently to foreign cities tells me that she
often seeks out the local church when she arrives,
finding there the shared ritual, the known liturgy and
prayers, the haven. Those of us who find a religious
home feel deep affinity with those who have moved
through with us and before us, congregating,
including, supporting. We offer and receive
sympathy and affection. The musicians sing their
hushed responses or chant their solemn rhythms and
we breathe together...Religion. From the Latin
religio, to bind together again. The same linguistic
root as ligament. *Ursula Goodenough*

The whole life of a man is but one single day
for those who are working hard with longing.
Gregory (Desert Father)

“How shall they call on Him in Whom they have not
believed? They shall praise the Lord that seek Him.”
Longing is the only sure knowledge, that core of
human instinct which unfurls its song of praise.
Patricia Hampl

There is a built-in sense of indebtedness in the
consciousness of man, an awareness of owing
gratitude, of being called upon at certain moments to
reciprocate, to answer, to live in a way which is
compatible with the grandeur and mystery of living.
Abraham Joshua Heschel

Sunday should be different from another day.
People may walk, but not throw stones at birds.
Samuel Johnson

A man who should act, for one day, on the
supposition that all the people about him were
influenced by the religion which they professed
would find himself ruined by night.
Macaulay

Could we but look more clearly and wisely, we might
discover somewhere in the garden a strange new
flower and an unnamed star...“Christ has risen.”

Whoever believes that should not behave as we do.
Czeslaw Milosz

It is right and necessary that all men should have work to do; first, work worth doing; second, work of itself pleasant to do; third, work done under conditions as would make it neither over-wearisome nor over anxious.
William Morris

Our resurrected bodies will be intact as to our personality, that is, intact with all the contradictions beautiful to us, except the contradiction of sin. I look for all variety in that unity, but not for a choice: for when all you see will be God, all you will want will be God... Everything doesn't end in tatatum and a tragic little pie. I believe in the resurrection of the body.
Flannery O'Connor

As God has made no family more happy, let it also be the case that He finds none more thankful.
Blaise Pascal

Idleness and the incapacity for leisure correspond with one another; leisure is the contrary of both. Leisure is only possible to a man who is at one with himself and also with the world. These are the presuppositions of leisure, for leisure is an affirmation. Idleness, on the other hand, is rooted in the omission of these two affirmations.
Josef Pieper

It is only during the cessation of work that we nurture our family bonds, educate our children, and nourish our friendships. It is in "recreation" that we literally re-create, renew, restore ourselves after the wear of labor. And those of us who are painters, writers, and musicians know that it is in a particular form of idleness, in the suspension of everyday, routine work, in loafing and inviting our souls, that most of our innovations and breakthroughs, our best inspirations, come. It is in the essential lazing offered by the Sabbath ritual that prayer and recollection proceed; it is only in our ungainful unemployed time that we can tune in to God's Word by dimming out the static created by our egos and our drive to excel. And it is only in our moments of deepest repose and just plain loafing that we are offered those miraculous peak moments in which we're suddenly startled to realize that we exist, that anything exists, in which the gift of existence suddenly shines out at us, like chalk on a blackboard, against the possibility of not existing at all. Finally, one might say that it is only in a certain kind of idling that true compassion begins. For compassion is the art of acute selfless listening, of

becoming alert and mindful to the needs of others by listening to them unconditionally with what St. Benedict called "the ear of our hearts."
Francine du Plessix Gray

A sacramental view of nature, listening to wind-sounds, looking at snow in a far-away field. A sense that from each image some profound truth might be grasped. The feeling that one is on the edge of many things: that there are many worlds from which we are separated by only a film; that a flick of the wrist, a turn of the body another way will bring us to a new world. It is more than a perpetual expectation: yet sometimes the sense of richness is haunting: it is richness and yet denial, this living a half step, as it were, from what one should be. The valleys are always green, but only the eyes, never the feet, are there. The feeling is always with us, but most in the middle of the morning. How are you this morning? – the eternal question.
Theodore Roethke

Time and love are both wasted so long as time remains working hours and love without song.
Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy

Labor without joy is base. Labor without sorrow is base. Sorrow without labor is base. Joy without labor is base.
John Ruskin

Necessity is the constant scourge of the lower orders; ennui that of the higher classes.
Schopenhauer

If I happen to waste a day, I am happy for it.
Sisoës (Desert Father)

The part played in life by leisure time and superfluous energy is a large one. The man with nothing to do and money to burn, or the saunterer who starts throwing stones or breaking branches... When the masses have the leisure it is hoped to give them for cultivating their minds, they will employ it in just the same way as those who have it now.
Paul Valéry

Keep most carefully alive in me
Something of the expectancy
That is somehow likeliest to be
In a child waking,
A day breaking.
E. B. White

In walking, just walk.
In sitting, just sit.
Above all, don't wobble.
Yunmen