

# Deepening Circle

a practice of living communion

Autumn, 2023

In the DIVINE MILIEU, all is transfigured ....



Ansgar Holmberg, CSJ

Charlie Mackery, The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

Because of the incarnation, the world is full of God. By means of all created things, without exception, the Divine exerts pressure in us and upon us, assails us, penetrates us, and molds us through the intermediary of all the powers of heaven, earth, and hell in the act of forming and consummating Christ. In this place, the least of our desires and efforts is harvested and tended, and at any moment can cause the marrow of the universe to vibrate.

The essential marvel of the Divine Milieu is the ease with which it assembles and harmonizes within itself qualities which appear to us to be contradictory. As vast as the world and much more formidable than the most immense energies of the Universe, it possesses to a supreme degree that which makes up the warm charm of human persons.

Although it is near and perceptible, we can never seize it; it eludes our grasp and withdraws always further, bearing us along with it toward the common center of all consummation.



If we want the Divine Milieu to grow all around us, we must jealously guard and nourish all the forces of union, of desire, and of prayer that grace offers. We must withdraw to this more spiritual ether, bathe ourselves in this ocean of Matter; plunge in where it is deepest and most violent; struggle in its currents and drink of its waters.

Teilhard de Chardin, *The Heart of Matter*, adapted by Kathy Duffy, SSJ

God's free gift of love supports your life at every moment. Rely on it!

Maxim 14

The experience of God is the experience of depth of all human experiences and each of them. It is the experience beneath every human experience--beauty, joy, pleasure, agony, coldness, goodness ...

Panikkar, *The Experience of God*

**Practice:** Wordless interbeing with God, with any dear neighbor or with any part of creation can shift us from mental, rational reactivity to simple embodied Presence, a spaciousness where Deep Mind can arise through unknowing.

The mysterious power of Love is always at work in us. We, our lives, our work, our creativity are infinitely in communion with Divine Love Energy--the Ground and Source of all life.

Whoever we are engaged with, whatever we are working on, we are invited to approach all with reverence and absolute trust that the Holy One is transfiguring the world through our effort and intention.

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"One of our greatest freedoms is how we react to things," said the mole. "I've learned how to be in the present."

"How?" asked the boy.

"I find a quiet spot and shut my eyes and breathe."

"That's good. And then?"

"Then I focus."

"What do you focus on?"

"Cake," said the mole.

You might journal with this reflection, use it for prayer, engage dialogue with others, ask questions of it, attend the Zoom session. It will keep opening for you as you work with it.

There is one Love.  
I am that Love.

There is one Power.  
I am that Power.

There is one Life Eternal.  
I am that Life Eternal.

God lives through me/us.  
God lives through me.