dia

Lectionary: 398

**Gospel** Mt 13:10-17

The disciples approached Jesus and said, “Why do you speak to the crowd in parables? “He said to them in reply, “Because knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.*

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. AMen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

**Homily by Barbara Schwarz July 27, 2023**

The past few days we have been sharing stories.

Today’s Gospel asks why Jesus told parables. Aren’t parables stories?

There was a parable that began some 25 years ago. It was a story of people who gathered from all over the world to celebrate the arts as preaching. Each Dominican was a parable in their own right.

In one S. Rosemary; greeted me at MSJ and next to her was Pat Lee from my community. Pat and I travelled from NY to meet for the first time. In time we would become friends and collaborators.

Who have you met at a DIA gathering for the first time that made a difference in your life?

There was a sister to whom people came and told the stories of their art and she listened intently and encouraged at each gathering. We saw her last night in video. And so we have the parable of Sister Adele Rowland who became known as the grandmother of DIA. I could list many others

But most importantly:

Who are the artists poets, musicians, dancers, weaver and workers in stained glass, quilting, calligraphy, photographers, writers ofbooks and paintings, movies and graphic arts that spoke to you of God as you cherished their works.

“For blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

We understand the creative process and are drawn into it in many ways. How does it impact your story?

There is the parable of blown glass by Chihuly in Meyers gardens, The textile pieces that showed the history of the black community in Columbus.

The parabolic collaborations of Elaine Taylor and Rudolf that lead to plays and operettas. Thoma Swanson, Sheila Flynn, Nancy turne and many others whose work with and for the poor made a way to live with dignity and hope.

The parables of Dominican life seen in my charism videos in movies by Dominic Delay, Armando showing the truth of God’s presence and actions in justice and truth. The parable of Catherine of Siena shown in the dramatic presentations of Kathy Harkins and Nancy Murray.

We have a 25 year history of preaching the presence of God in our arts. And we can celebrate with Joy the Parable of DIA.

Today what are the parables you know and celebrate in your art and with our member past and present?

How are you and your art a parable of God.