

Scripture Readings: Philippians 2:3-4 & Jeremiah 29:11

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ~ Philippians 2:3-4

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future. ~ Jeremiah 29:11

I spent 13 or 14 years at Camp Glen Arden in Tuxedo, NC. I loved Sundays as we took the bus to Mass in the early morning, returned to camp for Sunday school before lunch, and Vespers on Sunday evening. At Sunday Vespers, Mary Bell, the camp director often read the following poem at the end. We left Vespers in silence with our ponchos tied to our waist all the way back to our cabins. It was a powerful reflective time for me. It is still my favorite poem as it is one where I reflect on my sinfulness and come out on the other side with a strong sense of humility.

I SAW GOD WASH THE WORLD

William L. Stidger

I saw God wash the world last night
With His sweet showers on high;
And then when morning came
I saw him hang it out to dry.

He washed each slender blade of grass
And every trembling tree;
He flung his showers against the hills
And swept the rolling sea.

The white rose is a deeper white;
The red, a richer red
Since God washed every fragrant face
And put them all to bed.

There's not a bird; there's not a bee
That wings along the way,
But is a cleaner bird and bee
Then it was yesterday.
I saw God wash the world last night;
Ah, would He had washed me
As clean of all my dust and dirt
As that old white birch tree!

I often turn to this poem when I am unable to get to the sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession. "Ah, would He had wash me as clean all my dust and dirt as that old white birch tree!"

Prayer: Dear gracious and forgiving Father, thank you for giving me my parents, who were the best example of being humble and thinking & doing less for themselves and giving 150% of themselves to others. They instilled that in me, but through your loving guidance, please keep me from sin and on the same path, to serve others' needs before my own through humility. May I continue to lean into humility as you know the plans for me.

~ Submitted by Saunders Grommesh for the Thirty-Fourth Reading of Lent