

Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:13-14

Good morning my friends!

On Tuesday evening I attended the “Transitional task force, sub- team on “Mission and Vision.” At this wonderful gathering of representatives from each of the three congregations that form our current community of faith, we had the opportunity to dream together. We spoke about the hopes and the dreams that we held close to our hearts for our community.

One of the members of this task force made a comment that truly resonated with my heart. She shared that in our vision we should always keep before us two elements. “Who we are right now and who we hope to become.”

The above text from holy Scripture comes to mind when I thought about her thought. However, with the permission of St. Paul, I would like to edit the beginning of this phrase and suggest that we should not “forget the past” but rather “honor and respect” our past.

So, who are we?

This morning when I woke up, I put water on my face three times. In my head I recalled the words, “in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Remembering that indeed I am a child of God. I AM a beloved child of God! I AM a heavenly prince! I AM called to be a coworker with Christ to bring the kingdom of God into our world.

As I reflect on who I am, I realize that my hope is grounded in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That I am forgiven for my transgressions and that each day, in fact each moment when I recall my true identity, that I am resurrected to new life. Renewed and refreshed to become the person that God desires me to be.

Imagine that. Today, this moment, recalling that indeed you too are a child of God, our Lord gifts you with the ability to be renewed and refreshed in life! The past has formed and shaped you into the person you are right now, a person who is in fact “liked, accepted, and unconditionally loved” by our God. In this moment you can start again. To be renewed in your baptism and to display to the world the best version of you that you can be.

I look forward to who we are becoming! Transformed by the grace of a loving God we are pressing on to live into our heavenly calling!

But until the next time,

Keep trusting God, keep washing those hands, and be at peace with God and with one another!