

CLASSIFIED WANT ADS

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Dedicates Memorial

Bishop Matthew H. Clark blesses and dedicates a shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Mary's Church in Waterloo to the memory of Father Edward Shamon, former pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Auburn. Father Shamon's brother, Courier-Journal columnist Father Albert Shamon, is pastor of St. Mary's. The shrine incorporates a statue made by Del Pratto of Boston and was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven A. Kalina of Geneva who were close friends of the Auburn pastor.

Sister Susan Schantz, SSJ



Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

Painting Draws God Closer

"Mother's Helper" is the name of the painting. Its Mexican artist is Diego Rivera and I often borrow this print from the public library and hang it on our living room wall.

The earth at harvest time gave the painter rich colors for his work: brown, orange, yellow and black. The Mexican mother squats on the ground, hands extended to her child who is offering a bushy golden plant. Both mother and child look intently into the other's eyes.

The warm colors, the mother's posture and the intense gaze of mother and child energize the painting. One day, while I was praying, that picture became an image for an experience of God. That experience of God is new for me, a surprise and a personal revelation that has changed my prayer. Yet this image appears in the stories and phrases of our tradition and is as old as the Hebrew scriptures.

The gaze and posture of the mother depict for me the God who longs to be close to us. Squatting to touch her child, to meet the child's glance, to work with the child — this mother images for me the God who persists in communication and who opens the conversation of revelation time after time.

The psalms celebrate the God who looks on us with love, the God whose face shines upon us, and the God whose eyes light gives

us the deepest happiness. When pray the singers of the psalms: will we see God face to face? And those same singers recall how God stooped toward them and heard their call. The painting gives shape to the longing and to its fulfillment.

Rivera's painting enriches my understanding of the God we compare to our parents. This God is intimately with us during each season of our lives. The Mexican woman teaching her child to work, embraces, in her relationship, the dependence and independence which are part of the lives of parent and child. She works beside her child, her hands' gentleness and strength teaching the child reverence for the earth and its fruit.

God is with us in this way of working quietly side by side. God, in Jesus, offers us this way of growing toward God's way of looking at and touching the earth and our sisters and brothers. Gentleness and strength are the working ways of our creative God whose glory is most fully shown us in the face of Christ.

I am grateful for this new experience of the God who, with outstretched hand, stoops toward me and looks at me with love. I treasure the sense of God working with me, challenging me to be gentle and strong. I thank God, too, for Diego Rivera's hands and heart and their gift of a new image for our God.

Sister Susan Schantz, SSJ is chaplain at Highland Hospital.

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Carpenter work: additions, porch enclosures, paneling, doors and windows, electrical work. 28 years experience. Prompt, free estimates. Check our reputation. DINAPOLI BROTHERS. Call anytime. 225-7681 or 227-4635.

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