

KDCCW Opening Prayer and Meditation – June 10-12, 2021

Lucy Brown - Spirituality Commission Chair – 2019 - 2021

*... And to him my soul shall live;
my descendants shall serve him.
Let the coming generation be told of the LORD
that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born
the justice he has shown.
Psalm 22:29-31*

(from Mass Psalm for April 2, Magnificat, April 2021, p. 40)

One who lived this to her dying day was Servant of God Elisabeth Leseur, whose atheist husband, after reading her spiritual journal after her death, embraced the faith and later became a Dominican priest!

Following is an excerpt from her Selected Writings included in *Magnificat's* May 6, 2021 Meditation of the Day, "Fidelity to Christ's Love," pp. 88-89. May her prayerful goals also inspire our striving to live thoughtfully within His love for us ... for His sake and for those whose lives we touch, remembering that with God all things are possible.

To persevere steadily with my daily prayers and meditations, my Communion at least weekly, to increase and strengthen, by divine grace, my spiritual life. To be all things to all people, and in all circumstances to remain gentle, serene, full of love for those around me. By example, by my words and actions, to try to make Jesus Christ known and loved; to do through him (or rather to ask that he work through me) for the good of those for whom I can be the instrument of providence. Each day to work first for God and then for my neighbor. To pray, to act. To speak to each one in the language he or she can understand. To live in my interior depths and to proclaim myself before all, yet in all simplicity, a child of Christ and of his Church, and to make my outer life harmonize with this high calling....

To remember that God is in charge; to await the hour willed by him for those I love; to hasten it not by action that may be indiscreet, but by prayer, by my suffering, and by a love, free of all pride and egotism, that does not expect results. To infuse my words, actions, and even gestures with moderation, a peaceful gentleness, that will be a constant sign of my interior serenity. In this way to reveal God always working in me to calm me, to soothe me, and to strengthen me....

Renewed consecration of my life to Jesus Christ. To live forever for him alone; to maintain my loves and friendships in him, more graced each day. To love with a more lively and faithful love; to practice the threefold apostolate of prayer, of atoning penance, and of action through good works, words, writing, and example. I take as a motto for my whole life those words: *to gather up all things in him* (Eph 1:10)... To ask for the divine summons by my fervent prayers, my sacrifices, and my trials. To make Jesus Christ loved and his Church known; to share untiringly, without looking for results, all that has been given to me; to make a ministry of all my actions, words, and affections.

SERVANT OF GOD ELISABETH LESEUR

Elisabeth Leseur († 1914) was a French laywoman whose atheist husband, after reading her spiritual journal after her death, embraced the faith and later became a Dominican priest. / From Elisabeth Leseur: Selected Writings (CWS), edited, translated, and introduced by Janet K. Ruffing, R.S.M. © 2005 by Janet K. Ruffing, published by Paulist Press, Inc., New York/Mahwah, NJ. Used with permission.
