



*This devotion, written by FPLC member Mary Buscher, was originally sent out through email on May 6.*

Hello!

*“The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” - Job 33:4*

Sometimes our days are so busy that we might say, “I need a breath!” or “Maybe we could use a breather!” Cleaning off packages, disinfecting, and wiping down everything from counter tops to door knobs is now routine. Our deliveries remain in alternate locations and I never knew that my fingers could look so wrinkled from washing my hands! These last weeks I have felt like I needed to pause and just breathe. In the midst of my own diligence, though, I need to remember those for whom taking a breath is an actual struggle.

Taking a breath for our hospitalized friends means something entirely different. If only they could literally take a breath. Just one moment of calm in rooms where the sound of mechanical devices is a constant interruption, would be a wonder. But even here, maybe especially here, God’s miracles rise above our manmade technology. He places His special caregivers exactly where they are needed. Blessed with talents, skills, and kindness, God’s beautiful creations bring our friends back to us in wholeness. We praise and thank God for His love and tender mercies! Those who struggle deserve our prayers of hope and then joyful celebration in their recoveries!

*“Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!” - Psalm 116:2*

Passing by St. Monica’s parish, I noticed a sign that read “Pray. Hope. And don’t worry.” What a wonderful message from Him to us! The Holy Spirit is connecting us, encouraging us and speaking to us with words of guidance. Just listen - you are never alone...abide with me and pray...have faith and hold fast to hope...rejoice in relief...open your souls to small miracles...love with all your heart...trust.

Breathe.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” -Galatians 5:22-23*

Dear Father, Help us to slow down. For those whose lives are compromised by this or any illness, we pray for healing. For those who are summoned to their rescue we ask for renewed strength. We thank you for your abundant grace and support as we try to follow Jesus’ path and choose words of kindness and act out of love and compassion. Even though we might be dwelling with uncertainties in this world, we walk its’ uncharted roads with confidence because you are with us. Amen.

Blessings for a wonder filled week! - Mary