

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality

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“There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.”

Edith Wharton

Spring 2002

Dear Friends,

It has been a long, dark, depressing winter. The anguish of witnessing the continuing suffering of the wide world as well as that of our own small community can put one in a deep state of grief. Each day we observe the flow of the guests as they walk through our gates: wet, cold, exhausted, and hungry, each step, at times, taken painfully.

During the winter months most of our garden is in shade because of the angle of the sun over the tall building next door. When we would have a day of sun I would watch as our guests huddled together following a fragment of light for its warmth. Faith is that fragment which leads us to the warmth of God's Light.

Once again, we are at a crossroad where it is only our faith that reminds us that spring returns after the longest of winters. Each cell in our bodies resonates with the rebirth of spring.

This is the spring of radical forgiveness. This is the spring for extraordinary love. This is the spring for the river of tears to melt the hardest heart. This is the spring for our grief to wash away apathy and despair. This is the spring for boundless gratitude for the moments of darkness when we are forced to huddle together searching for the light.

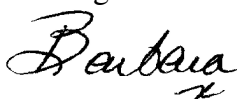
God's Light shines in each of us. Each of our souls knows the truth of God's love. During the darkest nights of winter the candle burns still brighter. Faith is our mirror that reflects its glow.

We are reborn when our lives mirror God's love. We are reborn when we re-knew our faith in the Great Creator. We are reborn when we light each other's way. We are reborn when we recognize the Divine within each and every one of us.

In the bitter cold of winter the songbird sings the sweetness of spring. In the breaking open of our hearts the seeds of compassion burst through. In reflecting God's Light we are all led to the grace of one another. In believing in God's Light we behold God's beauty that blooms in the gardens of our hearts.

As we enter into spring, know that we each reflect both God's Light and Love. Thank you for all your generous support.

Blessings and Peace,



Barbara Collier

for the Martin de Porres Community