

Martin de Porres House of Hospitality
225 Potrero Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94103

The winds of Grace blow all the time...Ramakrishna

Autumn, 1996

Dear Friends,

In our last newsletter we discussed the nuts and bolts about Martins. The tangible things we are able to do: a bowl of soup, a clean towel, a warm smile. Our difficulties arise when someone stands in front of us, alone, lost, frightened, and the impulse to save them surfaces. Hoping we might have the answer or solution to their problems, when the truth is all we are able to do sometimes is love them. The rest is in God's hands...

Grace is the awareness of the relationship each and everyone of us has with the divine. Grace is beyond our earthly understanding. It is the whole of things, and I mean the Whole thing. Being and non-being, form and formlessness, space and time, joy and suffering, questions and answers. It is everything that is, and never was. It is believing we are *all* being cradled in the palm of God's hand. Grace comes with knowing everything we do comes from God.

When we forget grace, we try to rescue people. Can we feel compassion and live with the knowledge there is little we can do? In trying to play God we stumble on our humanity. We are not in control. God is. That is the state of grace.

It takes courage to accept being in a state of grace. We are so hesitant to speak of the divine in our everyday lives, yet we are more than willing to speak of the latest political news, personal problems, or insignificant gossip. We must quiet our minds to let our hearts burst open. We must look beyond actions and words, rise above anxiety and confusion.

Whenever we are reminded there is nothing we can do, no possible way out of a situation, it is the perfect moment to surrender. Surrender shatters the shackles of our mind and ego. We hear the song of grace, and we breathe in the scent of divine love. The question of what we can do for another is finally answered. Love them, and let God in. Grace is allowing our whole being to be filled by God's love. There is nothing we need do to live in grace, we are already there. The solution we are seeking is here, the true awareness we want to live in, is now.

God's grace is in every breath we take. Feel the grace in each breath. Listen to the wind. It will always carry us to the divine.

In God's Light,



Barbara Collier
for the Martin de Porres Community