

March 2026

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? (Psalm 8: 3-4).

Like the psalmist, have you ever asked, “Who am I in relation to God?” or “Why should God care for me?” or “How would God really have time for me?” Jesus understood our penchant for such questions and addressed them head on with everyday imagery in his extensive “Sermon on the Mount,” which in part reads, “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these (Matthew 6: 29-29).

Think about lilies. They are all flowers and yet there are numerous varieties and shades. They also grow in various types of soil and endure differing weather patterns. And so it is with we human beings. In your prayer time, you might find it useful to consider your own place in this world; how God chose that you should come into your particular time and place. Take note of your birthday, your particular parents, siblings and extended family; the city, state and country into which you were born; and your own sex, race or ethnic group. Take note too of any personal characteristics or qualities that you may have inherited or that were instilled into you before you had a choice; for instance, a sense of self-assurance or anxiety, your primary language or your sexual orientation. Like the lily growing in the field you had no choice over these matters. For some you might be grateful, but perhaps there are others you would rather had been different. Yet, all of these factors have served to shape you, and have brought you into the person you are today; a person who in God’s eyes is even more beautiful than Solomon in all his royal finery.

In this time of Lent, we sometimes focus on giving up, or taking on, certain practices that we do not follow as part of our habits the rest of the year; such as eating less meat, exercising more, giving up alcohol or tobacco. These practices can help *remind us* of who we are as people of God and yet, they do not change who each of us already is as a beloved child of God. *Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, even though they neither toil nor spin...*

*Oh, Lord my God,
You called me from the sleep of nothingness
Merely because in your tremendous love
You want to make good and beautiful beings.
You have called me by my name in my mother’s womb.
You have given me breath and light and movement
and walked with me every moment of my existence.
I am amazed, Lord God of the universe,
that you attend to me and, more, cherish me.
Create in me the faithfulness that moves You,
and I will trust You and yearn for You all my days. Amen.
(Joseph Tetlow, S.J.)*

Elizabeth Goodine, Spiritual Director