

RELATING SCRIPTURES TO LIFE EXPERIENCE

Attending the Long Retreat led by Sr. Teresa Mary Dolan is an exercise in reading the Sacred Scriptures and visualizing yourself as one of those persons in that particular passage, or relating the scriptures to a vivid recollection of an experience you have had in your life.

In explaining Sr. Teresa's mission as it related to me, I said that she was guiding me to a smooth and safe landing in my final approach to receive worthily the promises of Christ.

Let me tell you of an experience I had and how it relates to the phrase I used in describing Sr. Teresa's mission, and how what happened one day during WWII flashed into my memory as one that reminded me of how it related to the Scriptures.

I was working on a project that was top secret and in the early stages of development. It was a radar system designed to land aircraft through dense fog to a smooth and

safe landing. In those days aircraft didn't have the sophisticated equipment in their cockpit that they have today to be able to land in a fog, the pilot needed to rely on our installation, which was a huge trailer positioned next to the runway. It was huge because in those days all electronics, radio and radar used vacuum tubes. Transistors hadn't yet been invented. You would need the largest aircraft we had just to carry our equipment.

The pilot of a B-24 bomber needed to land at Mitchel Field Airforce Base, which was close to New York City. The fog created a visibility of less than one quarter of a mile. The pilot was told to contact Ground Controlled Approach for their assistance to land. Pilot to GCA: "I was told that your crew is going to tell me how to fly MY aircraft through zero visibility to a safe landing. I've heard about your radar but have never seen your equipment and have never been briefed on it's use. I'm going to have to have a lot of FAITH to depend on your crew to guide me to a safe landing." GCA controller to pilot: "That's correct Captain, have FAITH, and we will give you all the directions you need to land you safely. We have identified your aircraft, and I have a blip on my screen indicating that you are 10-1/2 miles south east of runway 360 and an altitude of 7,000 feet. So

that you know what our crew consists of, I, as the controller, sit before a radar screen watching a blip, which represents your aircraft. On either side



of me is a crewman to the left who controls the azimuth antenna, and to my right, one who controls the elevation antenna. That is how we track you and keep you in our crosshairs."

Captain to GCA: "Wow, with all that you have told me, I now have much more FAITH that you will bring me in safely." GCA to Captain: "I will give you directions to bring you in line with the runway and to the proper altitude for you to begin your final approach." After several instructions as to headings and altitude, he was told to set his rate of decent, keep his present heading and we will give instructions if he deviates left or right or above or below the glide path. GCA to Captain: "You are at the beginning of the runway, 10 feet off the ground, it's all yours to take over and complete your landing."

Immediately after landing, the Captain and his crew came to our trailer saying "We had to come over and thank you all personally for landing us with such precision to a perfectly safe landing."

Now picture yourself in the same setting. The pilot (which is you) in the distance, and the ground crew in the radar trailer. God the Father is in the center keeping track of you, the Holy Spirit is on the left guiding you left or right, and Jesus



is on the right hand of the Father, who will guide you if you get too low.

God speaks to you: "I know you by name and am keeping track of you every second of every day in your life. I gave you a free will and it is up to you to save yourself for me."

I realize that I am just a little tiny blip in time and eternity, and a little tiny blip in this vast universe. I feel so insignificant in such surroundings. God speaks: "You are wrong, in my eyes you are significant, you are present to do my work for me on earth: to love your neighbor, feed the poor, visit the sick, and by your example and work, teach people about the real purpose of life." I reply: "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

I approach the Holy Spirit and pray that I might have the Holy Spirit within me, that I may always make the right decisions. The Holy Spirit replies: "I am here to guide you, so you will not deviate too far to the right or to the left. I will

guide you on the straight and narrow path of life."

I approach Jesus as he says to me: "Have faith in me and my teachings and I will be there to raise you up if you fall too low in your path of life. And I will raise you up on eagles wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

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