



Lent reflection for February 20, 2024

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A reading from 1 Corinthians 1:20-31

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Today's Reflection is by Julia Gannon

This passage allowed me to reflect on the ever present mental conflict that, I'm sure, plagues us all at one time or another: fact vs faith. Humans have always craved knowledge, and I'm very glad for it. The quest to define the unknown has led to countless innovations in medicine, art, travel, and a greater understanding of our world. But with every answer we gain about the universe, more questions seem to arise.

In times of questioning, I often find myself tempted to "defer to the expert". To relieve the pressure on myself to keep asking questions and seeking my own conclusions in lieu of trusting that someone else has done the research. All too often I feel the temptation to be swayed by

people who seem to be wise but turn out to be merely glib. All too quickly I find myself letting go of my defenses when I hear, “Scientific studies reveal....”

But it is God’s word and plan that bears the real truth of all things. One of my very best friends is an atheist, but he always tells me that my faith is one of his favorite things to hear me talk about. The things that science, logic, and wisdom cannot fully define are often the most beautiful. And don’t get me wrong, I love learning and want to continue to define the unknowns of the world just like the Greeks in this passage, but I plan to let the two ideas, the wisdom of the world and my faith in God, intertwine. My faith may be undefinable by those with the scientific wisdom of the ages, but it is real, present, and alive within me.



Julia Gannon is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, but now resides in Brooklyn with her two best friends/roommates and her precious pup, Cricket. She is a musical theatre writer, actor, and director who loves to craft and read fantasy books. Julia has been a member of Holy Apostles since 2020 and is a proud member of the Holy Apostles Choir.