



Reflections by the Lake  
Devotions for an Unordinary Time

July 1, 2020  
Lockdown

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM, a Capuchin Franciscan living in Ireland

Yes, there is fear  
Yes, there is isolation  
Yes, there is panic buying  
Yes, there is sickness  
Yes, there is even death  
But...  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down  
and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at  
their neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up  
to a new reality  
To how big we really are  
To how little control we really have  
To what really matters  
To Love  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes, there is fear  
But there does not have to be hate  
Yes, there is isolation  
But, there does not have to be loneliness  
Yes, there is panic buying  
But, there does not have to be meanness  
Yes, there is sickness  
But, there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes, there is even death  
But, there can always be a rebirth of love  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now  
Today, breathe  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing, Spring is coming  
And we are always encompassed by Love  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing