

Daily Meditation 07-26-22

How Julian of Norwich Can Help Heal the Doctrine of Discovery

Good morning.

Yesterday we invited Pope Francis to do a real act of penance for the church's sins toward indigenous people. By denouncing the Doctrine of Discovery -- not only denouncing, but I think he should publicly burn these documents in the square of St. Peter's for the televisions running. While he doesn't have to burn the exact historical documents -- they can be kept under glass in some museum -- but he can burn facsimiles of them, Xerox copies.

That is what they deserve. They should be replaced, I think, with the teachings of Julian of Norwich, which are just so creation-centered, so balanced in their explicit naming of the Divine Feminine with the sacred masculine. As she says, "God is delighted to be our father, and God is delighted to be our mother."

She teaches that even Christ is a mother, because he is teaching the values of motherhood, especially compassion and love. And she says "God is the true father and mother of nature," and that we find God, as she says, in all things.

For God is unending goodness and an endless goodness. And we are born into a birthright of never-ending joy.

She says, "To behold God in all things is to live in complete joy." And that goodness is everywhere in nature. She says, "The first good thing is the goodness of nature."

That of course includes Father Sky, that includes, in today's understanding, 13.8 billion years of the universe's work.

She says "God is the same thing as nature, and God is very essence of nature. And the goodness of nature is God."

And she talks about the glory of our bodies:

God is in our sensuality. God has forged a glorious union between the soul and the body. We were created luminous and noble and have been known and loved from without beginning.

All these teachings truly celebrate what indigenous peoples celebrate, when they pray, "All our relations,"... all our relations, this cosmic sense, the sense of the cosmic whole of the sacred whole, the sacred universe, thoroughly, thoroughly embedded in Julian's way of seeing the world.

But it is not embedded in those papal documents that spurred on the merchants and the armies that traveled with Columbus and others who set out to despoil the ancient cultures, the ancient wisdom and deep spiritualities of indigenous peoples. This is a far cry from a punitive Father God... a punitive Father God who dominates wherever

there is fundamentalism, wherever there's fascism, patriarchal consciousness that puts control first and teaches obedience first, not love. Not justice, not forgiveness, and certainly not celebrating the joys of life.

And Julian of Norwich teaches panentheism: she actually defines faith as panentheism. "Faith is the trust," she says, "that all things are in God. And God is in all things."

So Julian of Norwich offers a true antidote to the imperial religion that set sail in 1492 for the Americas and shortly afterwards for Pacific islands, and many other continents.

Thank you, Julian. I hope Pope Francis is listening.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.