

September 11, 2020

Revolutionary Love

Everything begins in mysticism and ends in politics.

—Charles Péguy

The late Marcus Borg described Jesus as a Jewish mystic. In a book about the Apostle Paul that Borg wrote with John Dominic Crossan, they described Paul as a Christ mystic. They defined “mystic” as anyone who is in union with God and encouraged that we all might pursue this relationship. I think we all know or surmise that this union with God is nurtured through prayer, but there are other ways, too.

Richard Rohr has written often about the deep relationship between prayer and the transformation of social structures and social consciousness. Jesus’ mystical relationship with the divine birthed the social practices of communal care that included the distribution of food, physical and emotional healing and connection. He created a community devoted to the work of what has been called “revolutionary love.” Doing the work of revolutionary love is living one’s prayer.

In a recent *Christian Century* article, Sebastian Moore, Benedictine monk, was quoted having said in 1980s: “Unlike the birth of contemplative prayer in the medieval monastery, its birth today will be political, and generate a holy rage.” Public demonstration and protesting can be experienced as devotion to God.

For today’s mystic, it may mean fanning the ember of holy rage so that it can fuel the work of revolutionary love. These are challenging days, and we need prayer, however it is found, to give us strength for this journey.

Blessings!

Paula