



Grand Teton National Park

Friendship with God

JOHN 15:15–16

JOHN

I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

“The Gift of Spiritual Friendship” Retreat

June 3-5, 2022

Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades
Fr. James Northrop (www.thegraceofpentecost.com)

Foundations

Here I asked Our Lord about my daily routine. So often I am tired and need to rest. I feel guilty about not being able to keep up what I would see as a more normal daily round of prayer and activities. Sometimes I cannot say all of the Office. This weighs on me. So I asked Our Lord what I should be doing.

For now, your daily routine is what you can do. I will help you and My Mother will help you, gently and little by little, to make the changes that are necessary. Do not give in to the feelings of guilt that assail you because you are not living up to the ideal you have set for yourself. I do not ask you to be faithful to an ideal. I ask you only to be My friend and to live at every moment in the grace of My divine friendship. All the

Foundations

rest follows. Perfection is the fruit of friendship with Me, not a precondition for it. You, and many souls like you, are confused about this. My friendship is not earned, it is not something acquired by measuring up to the standards of perfection that you have set for yourself. My friendship is pure gift.¹ It is the gift of My Sacred Heart and I offer it freely. So few souls understand this. You are sanctified by living in My friendship. All the rest is secondary. Love Me and believe in My unconditional love for you. Trust Me. Show Me that you have confidence in My merciful goodness, especially when you experience weakness, or shame, or fear, and I will renew the grace of My love in your heart. I will uphold you with the gift of My unfailing presence. I am the Friend who will never forsake you. Let that be enough for you.

Monk, A Benedictine. In *Sinu Jesu: When Heart Speaks to Heart--The Journal of a Priest at Prayer* (p. 29). Angelico Press. Kindle Edition.

The Gospel

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16

The Truth That Sets Us Free

- God loves us and wants what is best for us.
- God is trustworthy. (Magnificat)
- If we aren't reconciled to God our friendships with others won't be healthy. The first order is always putting God first.
- We are all broken and love imperfectly. We are on a marvelous journey of being "perfected" in love.

A Testimony To Spiritual Friendship

- Mandisa's Testimony and the blessing of spiritual friends.

Stay Strong

- Renounce the lies of the Enemy.
- Pronounce the Truth
- Speak words of blessing and affirmation (Philippians 4:8-9)
- Don't be afraid to confront your brokenness — God is on our side.
Help and healing are always available
- The closer you are to the Lord and living the truth the better friend you will be to others.