Unity from the Depths: Living from the Depths:
from Chaos to Union… Janet Corso- presents:

We are most susceptible to mass movements when we:

- ***feel disillusioned*** and ***disappointed***

- ***feel lonely, invisible*** and ***isolated***

- ***blame the Other***

- find it ***hard to envision our own personal power and create a better life***

- ***live with a real or imagined sense of "not enough"***

- are ***driven by fear***

- are ***poorly, minimally, standardly*** or ***narrowly educated***

- ***lack creativity*** and ***imagination***

- ***have little or no inner resources***, ***often bored***

- ***desire meaning but not growth***

- ***seek self-renunciation***

- ***lack integrated personal religious experience***

- **support** ***institutions*** (including religion) ***of rules***

- ***are willing to sacrifice all*** (freedom, self, others)

- ***looking*** and ***longing for hope***

Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer, An Analysis of Mass Movements,* 1951

The prophetic stance is to live on the edge of the inside.

– Richard Rohr

Jesus the Prophet

- *recalled the present to the will of God and seeded the future* with an eternal message

- *refused to accept the status quo*

- *said "no" to everything not of God*, anything that ignored the will and desire of God for God's creation

- *cried out from anger* and *rocked every boat*

- *spoke justice*

- *spoke out* against poverty, violence, injustice, inequality, human dignity and *for all of creation*

- chose *true community* over isolation and divisive and 'pseudo communities'

- went after leaders in particular but *told the truth to all –* even his friends

- delivered the message then said "*Shake the dust from your sandals"* and left those who would not listen

Joan Chittister, OSB

Prophetic (Deep) Spirituality

- *aligns us with the Will of God*

- always seeks **the greater good** and the **protection of people and all of creation**

- is *dangerous*

- requires we *pay the cost*

- returns people to *consciousness of the whole*

- vocation of *public conscience* and *personal commitment*

- *not a vocation for the weak and fearful, the unconscious, or uncommitted*

- dares to be *grounded in truth* and *long-term investment*

- *may arise spontaneously* and *not seem significant*

- *is always clear* and loud when called for, (Learn to say: *I feel differently about that …”*)

- is *nonviolent;* does no harm to others

- *not ego driven, traitorous or anarchistic*

- calls us to the *best of what we say we are*

- is *not responsible for how or if another receives the message* but is *responsible for delivering it*

- ultimately **seeks unity,** which **does not always or often come swiftly, cheaply or easily**

- is *the Christian call* to each of us but will be lived out uniquely according to time and circumstance

- is *not paralyzed by fear as things falling apart* (grounded in God)

- *brings hope*   adapted from Joan Chittister, OSB

*Those who ignore prophetic spirituality learn to believe that being nice
is being good. Don't be confused!*

There is a limit at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue.
– Edmund Burke, 1769

*You must warn them – you!
You must bring God's presence to these things.*

*The prophetic tradition is steadfast, courageous, and committed
to the eternal will of God and is in us all.*

The only way worthy of our efforts is to construct the future.
– Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, 1950

Joan Chittister, OSB, address to Jesuit Volunteers, Spring 2021

Loving God,
you fill all things with a fullness and hope
we can never comprehend.

Thank you for leading us
into a time where more of reality is being unveiled
for us to see.

We pray that you will take away
our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair.

Help us to have the courage to awaken to greater truth,
greater humility,
and greater care for one another.

May we place our hope in what matters
and in what lasts,
trusting in your eternal Presence, and love,

Listen to our heart's longings for unity,
for oneness,
within our own hearts
as well as in our suffering world.

Amen
Adapted from Richard Rohr's "Prayer for Our Community"