

Sister's Spin

March 26, 2024

"Look for the beauty in the trees," my friend said, as I was grouching about the barrenness of trees in the early winter months. I didn't mind them when they were snow covered or ice frosted, but the barren branches gave me no joy. That's when she told me I had to look for the beauty in the trees. So, as I drove to school each day, while watching the road, I also began to look at the trees more closely. I began to see how the tiny barren branches formed lacey patterns against the gray, and sometimes, blue skies. The larger branches in their graceful stretching to the heavens seemed to say "**Praise God**" as they reached high in various patterns. The rounded shapes of some trees vied with the pointed tops of others and together made a whole new scene against the skies. I also saw how the trees provided home for the squirrels, the hummingbirds, and other creatures of God. I planned to tell my friend how her words inspired me to see the trees of winter in a new light, but God took her home before I had the chance. Now, each time I drive to school or on some of the country roads in my area, her words come back to me and I continue to look for the beauty in the trees. My friend's words will be with me through days of budding trees, times of splashes of color, months of various greenery giving shade on a hot day, and through the bitter months of barren branches. Each season I will search for the beauty in the trees, but I will also search for the beauty of each person for this is another lesson her words teach me--one needs to look deeply to see the beauty, not just in the trees, but in all of God's creatures.

In this Holy Week, her words even have a deeper meaning as I look to the hill of Calvary. This tree, holding the bruised and battered body of Jesus, may seem to have no beauty, but when looking deeper, one can see that it speaks of the joy of salvation when one searches deeply for its beauty. Look for the beauty in the Tree

-Sister Marcianne

