

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION - STORY



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: that I connect to personal experiences of giving and receiving and be moved by the nobility of sharing

I contemplate the proposed image (a carving by a Rwandan artist from the workshop of Nyondo)

First, the woman crouching on the right:

Making herself small, holding up a bowl, is she giving or receiving? What is she saying? "Can I offer you something?", "Will she take it? Will she be content?" How is she looking at the other woman? What can I perceive from her attitude? (fear, anxiety, humility, discretion...)



Foto: F. Oberreuter - Weiße Väter

Second, the woman on the left: extending her hand with a certain hesitation, maybe a little discomfort, is she taking or discreetly making a contribution? What can I say about her attitude? (not taking greedily, receiving with a certain discretion; humbly and with dignity, giving with a certain reserve and respect...)

Then, I look at both women together: neither of them is focused on the bowl: looking at one another - in silence.

I reflect on what is happening: the relationship, the friendship, the encounter, the gesture of sharing, the one who is giving is not just giving what is in the bowl; she is giving of herself, the one who is receiving is not just receiving a gift; she is also receiving the other person.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How can I describe my relation to giving and receiving? Where has the experience of my own poverty and weaknesses helped me give with nobility and happiness? Where has the awareness of my own dignity helped me receive with freedom?