

There is another world which lies inside every person; a perspective that we can never fully know, a world which we will never fully experience; both hallmarks of God's creative love. There are secrets that lie dormant and tales that have not been told. Beneath the appearances and mannerisms of anyone we encounter; there are the deepest yearnings of the human heart. There is a yearning which cannot be filled on this Earth and there are longings to know who you are and where you are going.

For all the times I pass people on the Metro or on the streets, those times my eyes meet with seemingly complete strangers, I don't recognize these intricacies of the person and the joyous mystery that everyone is. It happens so much that I can become immune to who passes me, in the sense that I forget they share the same human longings I have. No matter what someone has gone through or the sins that have overtaken them, there are those longings of the heart which God has placed there. A girl wants to be loved with all of a man's heart, just as the man has that desire to give all of himself. And the poor find within them the longing of a place they've never known, yet a place that is their inheritance. These are only some of the many ingrained within us.

A lot of course has been written about these human longings and what they could possibly mean from the philosophical, theological and scientific points of view. I think we can only hope to point others to their exploration. As God's grace transforms someone, these longings are more apparent. Their exploration can lead someone closer to God and truth can be reached.

Such yearnings of the human soul can often be undiscovered by the person. It seems that if we let it happen, so much of these human longings can be confused, lost and twisted within the daily routines of life, the delicate workings of the mind or the ways of the world. We grow up learning to yearn for what is here on Earth instead of looking within and exploring these human desires in search of truth. Could the longings we have for immortality reflect the immortal nature of our soul and the home that we have in heaven? Sometimes these yearnings are dismissed as trivial or misunderstood in the attainment of something else.

All those people we pass, wherever we go, are they aware of the mysteries that lie within them? I'm willing to bet that if someone whose heart and life has been a struggle and whose world is in disarray could sit down with God and gradually let his grace work, they could discover yearnings they may have never understood. It can make you cry if you know the truth only God can assure you of, and the revelation that He can fulfill what you have unknowingly sought.

And Jesus would weep with you. We see that in the Gospel story this week. Sisters named Mary and Martha trustfully come to Jesus to tell him that Lazarus is sick and dying. When Jesus arrives at Lazarus's tomb, there is a scene which only death can bring: the sounds of weeping and tear drained cries of "only if you had been here Lord, he would not have died."

Jesus can't help himself from weeping with them and being "perturbed and deeply troubled" of the disarray death can do (Jn 11:33). Yet Jesus raised Lazarus from death's slumber, calling on the Father, and assured us that He gives true life as the Son of God. He has fulfilled the human longing to forever live because we were never meant to die. The goodness of God is so great that death could not overshadow it. Death instead became delegated not as an end, but as a means of revealing God's glory through the resurrection.

In his encyclical, *Mane Nobiscum Domine*, John Paul II calls the "greatest of human yearnings" that of being in heaven united with God. He writes that "God has placed in human hearts... a hunger which will be satisfied only by full union with him" and that "God had [this] in mind when he brought about in history his plan of salvation." Jesus came to us and we were drawn to him as we are today. The disciples didn't want him to leave them and crowds followed him. Within these human longings, we realize that Jesus is the only one who can fulfill them. Jesus gave us the Eucharist so that he might live within us, that here on Earth we could be in communion with God, and as John Paul II says, "in expectation of our complete fulfillment in heaven." The joy that awaits us at Easter is a truth of the human person in that we are never meant to die and our destiny has always been heaven.

The greatest mysteries may be the ones that lie within us; the yearnings that God has given us which come from him and lead to him. We can learn ever more about the person and these yearnings that link us all. Nowhere is it not displayed- movies, books, music, art, work and everyday life. To learn more about them, we have to explore the world and talk to people. We have to let them know that the adventure may not be the outside one but instead the one within them.

It is in prayer that God can help us understand that all these longings can only find rest in Him. From that time, we can believe Jesus when he tells us today that "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-27) and we can sincerely answer "I do Lord, I do."