

SOMETIMES

we need a bridge and sometimes we are the bridge. No one I know has escaped troubled waters, rough seas and challenging, scary days. There are times in our lives when we could use a little help, and other times when we are given the chance to be that help for someone else. It really doesn't matter where you are right now. What matters is that you remember we are stronger together, and taking a hand is just as important as offering one.

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By Mary Ann Collett

I was inspired by the sharing above that a friend sent me and I began to reflect on the many people that have crossed my path in the past 40 years while serving in ministry. I recall people asking me to pray for them to discern whether God was calling them to serve Him in a vocation or ministry.

During our faith journey we discover that our God has been preparing us to serve Him since the day of our Birth and Baptism. In some way, we are all called from our mother's womb. I have answered those who have asked, to **keep listening for the call**. It does not weaken; it only deepens. Of course, to taste the deepening we must engage in continual listening...deep listening. What matters is that you remember that we are stronger together, and taking a hand is just as important as offering one.

Ephesians 4:1-6

***I, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace:
one body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.***

Today may be the day to awaken to your call and the truth that God has been our strength even in moments when our work seemed futile and fruitless. In this world so full of joy and sorrow, so broken with violence, we are to be light in the darkness. Thus, God's glory continues to be revealed through us and the Scriptures.

Matthew 25:35-40

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

We also find in Matthew 25:35-40, that God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion — the marks of His kingdom. As followers of Jesus, we have a choice: respond to unsettling realities in fear and withdraw or follow Him in responding to the greatest needs of our day with love and hope. The goal here would be to do all things and render all service to all people for the glory of God.

The most loving thing that we can ever do for someone is to witness and share our faith with them. The gift of God's love, grace and eternal life is the greatest gift there is. Why not share it. It's too priceless to keep to ourselves, isn't it?



Mary Ann Collett is the proud mother of 3 married daughters and 7 grandchildren. She is an inspiring and dynamic Catholic Lay Evangelist; whose gift is to intertwine Scripture and personal stories. Mary Ann Collett, MSW, MA, CLEM, LLC, is a *Bereavement Counselor, Life Coach, Pastoral Care Counselor, Spiritual Director, Support Group Leader, and Speaker for Retreats and Workshops*. She is in private practice in Red Bank. Mary Ann has been in the Healing Ministry for over 37 years. She is the co-founder of the thriving ministry Catholic Women of Zion celebrating their 32nd year in 2021. She has traveled nationally and internationally to spread the message of the Kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.