

**Dec. 21, 2018**

Maynard and I did watch "Of Gods and Men" this week and I found it moving and inspirational - thank you for recommending it. Slow, thoughtful, hopeful, spiritual -- in the end, we are all people of God. I'm thinking of recommending it to my Muslim friend, Muna. She is a young woman, married with two little ones and is so wise. She was born in Somalia -- bi-lingual -- she and I believe we have the same God, just have a different name for him. She put together 6 Somali women who I will teach to sew starting in January. I really like Somali women - they are strong, speak up for what they need, and are quite loving. Muna is so friendly and loving -- I asked her how to approach Somali women on the street because they always look so unsmiling -- Muna said they do have a "look" when in public that appears like they are stoic -- it is a defense -- interesting, eh?

Oh, to be such a saint! I find myself spiritually sloven and so unholy compared to these folks (the Cistercian monks) - and you as a member of the Oblates and all the Oblates -- such commitment and desire for the heart of God you must have and how God blesses you! I think I would be as happy as the woman with the hemorrhage who merely touched the hem of Jesus garment. just to touch Jesus' garment would be enough.

**April 24, 2018**

Our 24-hour Living Homeless Jesus Vigil occurred on Good Friday at the First Lutheran Church here on the East Side. Many homeless came, cut up firewood for the fire, poured coffee for guests. Very humbling. At 4:00 a.m we surrendered to the weather -- it was very cold, windy, snowy, wet. There is a bench and fireplace inside so we could continue -- also, it was not lost on us the privilege of being able to go inside when we got cold and wet when homeless folks are not able to do so. One homeless fellow who was out all night did come in to the building, wet and chilled. we put his sleeping bag and gear in front of the fire to dry him out. He was grateful. There is a chapel in the building where we held the vigil where several outside homeless folks spent the night; many visitors remarked how "tomb-like" it was. Perhaps next year on Good Friday which is in April and should be a little more weather friendly.

The sewing project is moving along; several homeless folks want to learn to sew and work; there are two people who manufacture products that want the homeless to sew for them. One, a spirit-filled Somali woman who makes dresses for Somali mothers, also I may get to meet her mom who doesn't speak English! Won't that be interesting!! and the other is a Vietnamese woman who sews products for sportswear as well as for folks who have trouble with circulation. The Vietnamese woman "heard" about what I'm trying to do by starting to work with homeless folks. God is an amazing God! Also, when talking with my mentor from SCORE, I asked him about a business plan and he said, "you already have a business plan, you are a faithful woman and rely on God. I couldn't write a better business plan for you." What an affirmation!