

Third Sunday of Advent, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4- 7; Lk 3:1018

As adults, it's hard to accept that we are not in charge; it was for me.

It's been hard for me to accept that I've not ever been the captain of my ship; the master of my destiny.

Finally, I began to take account of my life. While believing that I was steering my destiny, I realized that every major and usually abrupt change in my life was not planned, or orchestrated, or even imagined by me. But change happened, usually, while I was busy planning, preparing and working hard at something completely different. And after a bit of disappointment and sometimes a little hissy fit, I always found that I was completely happy and satisfied with what did come to fruition.

I now understand better what is meant by -- have no anxiety at all... but pray and petition with thanksgiving (Phil 4:4-7). I've always thankfully accepted all daily gifts of life. Yet, it never dawned on me to give thanks for God hearing my prayers and petitions. Now, in knowing that God hears all my prayers, I am able to relax as never before without the burden of anxiety. Anxiety was my close companion for far too long. Now, I better understand that the love of God hears me and will not abandon me, and that prayers are answered with the clarity and sincerity that I commit to them, but not necessarily as I envision, and especially not within the control of my timing. Anxiety is fast losing its grip.

I'm learning to trust that God will not abandon me, misguide me, and always hear my petitions. Finally, I'm accepting that my logic, my thoughts, even my understanding of myself should follow instead of lead; and when I do that, I can indeed relax in the knowledge that God has plans for my life, has heard my prayers and petitions, and is always in charge whatever happens. He loves me, and I can trust this leadership wherever it takes me next.

Holy Name Parishioner Kathy M. Bridges