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2009

## Revelations

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### Repository Citation

Roche, Fr. Randy, "Revelations" (2009). *Spiritual Essays*. 64.

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## Revelations

We can flick a switch and turn on the lights, enabling us to see the contents of a darkened room. We cannot as easily illuminate by ourselves some of the mental, emotional, and spiritual “furnishings” of our interior rooms. But if we are willing to open our minds and hearts to seek the meaning, purpose, and motivations that make a difference in our lives, we will find them revealed to us.

Though we do not cause revelations of our deepest interior movements we can expect that we will receive them, as members of a beautifully crafted creation that is far more than mere physical existence. We can dispose ourselves to see some of the movements in our hearts that are important for our well-being and for the benefit of those around us.

God, in manifesting care for us without diminishing our precious freedom of choice, is more than adept at revealing to us who we are most authentically, and of course Who God is – and sometimes in the same experience. For example, a parent might look at a child and suddenly recognize the awesome change in his or her identity as having become a mother or a father – a “revelation” more than a mere intellectual assent to an obvious fact – and in the same moment also receive a sense that this change in life is a participation in the ongoing creative love of God.

Our experiences of revelations in daily life are frequently described in the words “Oh, now I get it!” We might find much cause for joy if we take time to reflect on some of the many and varied experiences of revelation that already have been ours, and to expect that many more will come to us.

Revelations about God are much more common than we might think especially if we are accustomed to seeing the word only applied, with a capital “R,” to scriptures and doctrines. But, Ignatius of Loyola pointed out that God deals directly with each one of us. When we become aware of a particular instance of God’s presence and action in our lives, we might be profoundly moved, and remember the moment and its impact on us for the rest of our lives. Though such a revelation might be thought of as bearing a small “r” because it is a personal gift, not directed to the entire faith-community, it has no less power to affect us, and through us, many other persons.

Some of the most significant revelations we receive about ourselves involve our vocations. The occasions when we come to know with certainty that we are to marry, or to follow a particular career, or to take on a new attitude towards life, are not only important for us, but for many other people as well. God's all-encompassing Revelation of love includes giving specific revelations to individuals that are ultimately for the good of all people.

Examples of revelations include instances when our faith in God becomes much more an act of sincere trust than a statement of doctrine. Also, when we are able to recognize, without thought or consideration, exactly the right words or deeds to apply that will help, heal, or otherwise benefit other persons, we experience revelations.

We can find a daily source of gratitude in calling to mind our revelations.