

Personal Reflection – May 9, 2024

New Learning for a Life-Long Learner

I have a physical therapist who comes once a week to my home. She pours out buckets of information, shovels numerous skills onto me – until I shout STOP.

“I need to learn all you have to offer, Mary,” I plead. “Please go slow and let me tell you what I heard and show you what you just demonstrated.”

I know she has a lot to cover. (SIC)

I want to say, *“Sit on it, Mary! You are not here to teach, but rather to ascertain my learning of a few facts and moves.”*

I experience *now* what the learner often feels.

And he cannot shout STOP! to his professor. The learner knows instinctively that he does not learn.

A learner does not learn until he *does* what he is learning. Jane does not learn what she hears or watches. She has to do it!

In the gospel we hear Jesus, the Rabbi and teacher complain: *They have ears to hear, and they do not hear.* So, he tells stories. You have to do something with a story: love the hero, despise the bad guy. When the story becomes theirs, and they run away from Jesus’ death, and they learn their own need of him, it is then that they can do what he was telling them all along.

Vulnerability turns the face towards God.

We honor the courage and vulnerability of learners when we tell our stories and invite theirs; when we dare them to do what they are learning!

--by Jane Vella