

Connecting New

April, 2026

Recently while praying in preparation for a spiritual direction session, I imagined both the directee and myself surrounded by the people who love us. Some of those people have long been in heaven, while others still walk the earth. As the prayer unfolded, a sense of deep, pure love (the love that comes from God) flowed toward us and enveloped us. A beautiful place indeed.

This divine love was mediated by those people surrounding us, and yet only the pure love that is God flowed out of them toward us. The inhibitions, wounds and other limitations that all of us carry had no impact in this sacred space. Perhaps like a tea bag colors the water, but not one tiny bit of sediment made it through. A place where those who love us, love us well because they are entirely free to do so.

Later, I reentered this experience with the hope of depicting it in a painting. The black represents the beautiful, loving, alluring and not completely knowable Divine. The people praying love on us encircle the two figures (the directee and myself). The love is represented by the white marks.



I invite you to engage this prayer on your own. First, recall each of the people who encircle you. Receive the love they are mediating and the love you feel for them. I encourage you to notice how you experience God's presence and what you sense God wishes you to know. Finally, what do you want to say to God? You could write about, paint or draw those messages.

You could also engage this prayer as one of the people in the circle. Who is the person you are showering with love and who are the other people joining with you? Again, how is God present, what does God want you to know and what is your response?

As we are in this season of Easter, when stories of how those who loved Jesus often didn't first recognize him in resurrected form, may we become more attuned to how Jesus is here with us, loving and blessing us in surprising ways.

Peace and Blessings,
Clarence

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