

Person:

Any encounter with clay is special, in that the person moulding it is enriched, and through their creative act, reveals themselves.

As God shapes us, he reveals himself to us, and that process goes on throughout our lifetime. We are constantly being shaped and reshaped, and God constantly reveals more and more of himself to us along the way.

Then as we ourselves create, the God in us, as well as our own character, is revealed in our works.



-:Silence:-

As we move into our craft session, think perhaps of one area of your life where you feel that God has moulded you, and see if you can translate that into a three-dimensional image in clay.

Or simply be creative and have fun.

Perhaps later we will be able to share our feelings about what we have created.

Your little offering may seem crazy to you, but it does reveal something beautiful in you, something that may surprise even you.

REFLECTION

The Potter



'The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potters house, and there I will let you hear my words. "

So I went down to the potters house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potters hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.' (NRSV)

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*Inspiration from the book, 'Clay Shared'
Br. Daniel de Montmollin & Br. Anthony Teague,
Taize Community, France*

Imagination:

Before any project begins, there has to be some spark of imagination, some imaging of what the potter wants to create.

If we are clay in the potter's hands, then he already has something in mind for us.

We are, and are becoming, the fulfilment of God's imagination.

-:Silence:-



Can you imagine being 'the gleam in the Father's eye', long before you were born?

Can you see a little of God's imagination in the shape of your life?

Imprint:

When God works with us, he leaves his imprint on our lives.

An imprint is not just a mark that is left on the clay. It is the presence, the consciousness, of the potter that is transmitted into the clay, making it unique in itself.

God may stamp his initials on us, but God's imprint goes to our very heart.

-:Silence:-



Are you aware of your uniqueness in God?

Looking back,, can you see how you have been shaped by God's imprint on your life?

Feeling:

Touching plastic clay sometimes awakens deep emotional memories. As human beings, we ourselves rely on touch to transmit and receive love, tenderness, reassurance and compassion.

Is it any different for God?

-:Silence:-



Is it any different for God?

And if that is so, how does it affect my relationship with God?

Choosing the material:

The truth is that 'creativity needs material in which to become incarnate.' God cannot bring to life his creation without us, the clay.

What God wants to make of us depends on our unique makeup, and like any skillful potter, God decides the final outcome according to the structure and pliability of the person, the clay.

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Do you know just how unique you are in Gods eyes?

Can you see how important this uniqueness is to God as he works with your life?

Centering:

The first thing a potter must do is centre the clay on the wheel. This is the point of calmness at which the clay becomes more easily workable, because it doesn't wobble from side to side. This allows it to be shaped more easily into the form the potter envisages.

In centering the clay, the potter transmits his own centre of calmness, which infuses his creation. His actions can be smooth and deliberate - a kind of choreography. This transmits to the vessel, whose shape becomes smooth, and its form pleasing to the eye.

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It is only in trusting ourselves to the potter's hands that we can become 'centred'. This means that although the world may be spinning fast around us, we achieve an equilibrium of calmness.

Can you remember times in your life when you have been aware of this God-transmitted calmness?

Touch - learning from the clay:

A master potter not only manipulates the clay, but learns from it as he works. He adapts his touch according to the clay's density, moisture content and pliability.

If his pressure is too strong, he will destroy his creation; too weak, and he will fail to produce the imprint he desires.

God's way with us is no different.

-:Silence:-



The sensitivity with which God deals with us is amazing.

Isn't it wonderful that he can actually learn from us?

Can you remember a time when you have been aware of his touch, and how sensitive it was to your needs?