

## Daily Devotional, August 6, 2021 Being the face of God

***“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10 (NIV)***

One of my favorite characters in all the musicals I have seen is Bishop Myriel. It is a small role in the powerful *Les Misérables*. This amazing musical is based on Victor Hugo’s novel of the same name. Bishop Myriel, in both the book and the musical, is a pivotal character that helps to change the life of Jean Valjean. The Bishop encounters Jean Valjean who is homeless and hopeless, and invites him to come and stay at his residence where he can rest and be nourished. Jean Valjean’s encounter with this humble, caring clergy sends him down the path of redemption and to a new life.

As a footnote to this story, Victor Hugo based his character on a real-life Bishop, Charles-Francois Bienvenu Myriel. Hugo wanted this character to be modeled after a person who represented patience, redemption, hospitality, and kindness. Interestingly, Hugo’s son was against using a clergy for this role in the book. He wanted a more secular, common person to embody these characteristics, but Hugo eventually went with the image that he felt best with, the bishop who spent a life in service to others. It is a Bishop who represents a God of the same character.

How do we best represent our faith to others? What are the characteristics that best exemplify Jesus, the One we follow? I love the character of Bishop Myriel, because he reminds me of how I am to represent our faith to others. He extends hospitality to the homeless and hopeless. He offers grace, even in the face of significant failure and missteps. He gives a chance for redemption to a life that many considered lost. These are the things that represent the beauty of our faith. These are the things we all need, from time to time.

When Jean Valjean encounters the bishop, he meets God. Bishop Myriel hopes his actions help Jean Valjean lead a better and more complete life, so he sings, “Remember this, my brother. See in this some higher plan...”

Here are some questions to ponder today. How will your actions today help others to see God? How will your work today bring new life to those around you? How will you help others to see a higher plan? Be open to God’s call.

***Prayer: Jesus, I am humbled that You consider me worthy to be used, in ways big and small, to accomplish Your will here on earth. Help me to respond without hesitation whenever I feel Your voice calling me into action. In Your powerful and providing Name, I pray, Amen.***