

June 18, 2008
Wednesday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

2 Kings 2:1, 6-14

Psalms 31:20, 21, 24

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them...
When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the
synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them...
When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.

There is a distinct difference between in the way we live in the world when we are living out of our true self vs. our false self. Our true self, the way we are created by God, is usually buried under a mound of false pride, fear, selfishness, and psychological need.

Let's take a look at some of the differences:

- The true self is alert and awake while the false self is distracted and numb.
- The true self is focused and clear while the false is vague and confused.
- The true self is compassionate, kind, and forgiving while the false self is blaming, critical, and bigoted.
- The true self is peaceful and serene while the false self is anxious and unsure.
- The true self is empathic, sensitive, and genuinely respectful while the false self is bitter, jealous, resentful, and incomplete.
- The true self is realistically self-responsible while the false self is over or under responsible.
- The true self is living clearly a life purpose while the false self is indifferent to a life purpose.

Gracious God, you made me in your image. Help me to strip away the hardened outer layers that protect me so that I might reveal You to the world through the person you created me to be.

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.
— Michelangelo