

*Come Holy Spirit
Use me to Your glory*

Precious Pilgrim,

The election has been held and my husband missed being in the runoff by a little over 2,000 votes.

Our world did not bottom out or fall apart. We experienced a defeat, not a disastrous devastation. There was no death, no end of the world, just a defeat. My family is intact and whole and, I'd say, even stronger than ever before. For me, this campaign was the most incredible experience of my life. I'll never forget it. I'll never forget the people, the volunteers, the new friends. I thank the Lord for this awesome adventure.

You see, we won. We won in so many ways, ways which will continue to unfold in the days and weeks and months and years to come. Our lives have been greatly blessed and enriched by the campaign. And, who knows what the future will hold? Only our Lord, and what an invigorating dance partner He is! I relish this relationship. I could not, would not, have survived this whirling dervish without feeling His constant support and Presence. Never have I been more aware of His limitlessness and my limitedness. Some days I was totally drained and empty and had no resources except Him, and He was sufficient. Never have I felt more strongly the awesome power of prayer at work. Daily there've been people praying for us, and I could not only feel that protection, but

often saw it actively at work. It was incredible. The prayer warriors and encouragers that daily walked spiritually with us on the journey was one of the most humbling of experiences. I'll be eternally in their debt.

Strangely enough for me, this whole last 24-hour process had not been an emotional roller coaster. I'd felt a steady calm throughout the day and night. There were many around us who were exhausted from the highs and lows the tabulated returns seemed to generate. I believe it was grace, God's grace, that sustained me. My prayer during this whole campaign process had been, "Thy will be done," and that was also my prayer during this long night. I don't think I was numb. I don't think I was in shock or oblivious to my emotions. As I said, I experienced a calm, a deep calm, a Rock-solid calm, and I thank the Lord for it.

I'm trying to proclaim the awesome availability of the supernatural calm of Christ. It is real. It is available. His armor does protect, and prayers do avail. I know. I've experienced it time and time again, but never more strongly than during this campaign season, and especially during those last campaign hours.

Before we close, I have three last things I want to share with you today.

Number one was my birthday present from my husband. It was an unusual day, for instead of a party, I attended three

political functions. I spoke at a luncheon and a tea in Huntsville and then we met for a fund-raiser.

Before his speech, he got on the microphone and announced that it was my birthday and then presented me with a gift. I wish I could say I was embarrassed and timidly accepted the present. But no, that's not my style. I love birthday presents, and I greedily grabbed it and ripped that paper off with gusto. Then I stopped and gulped and gave my man a big kiss, for he had given me an incredible work of art.

It was a photograph. I'd seen this masterpiece done by a friend a little over two weeks before, when I'd had the opportunity to drop by the gallery where she was having a show. I had instantly been drawn to this particular piece. It was my favorite. Unfortunately, it already had a red dot on it signifying that it had been sold, so I settled for another. I was disappointed. It was this photo, which was my birthday gift.

It is called "Let it be." It is a close-up of a beautiful young woman's bowed head. It represents Mother Mary's "yes" to her Lord God's request of her at the Annunciation. The other work, the one I bought, is called "All is Well." You see again a beautiful lady's head, but this time, instead of being bowed it is uplifted and the only other object presented is in the upper right-hand corner: a foot with a nail driven through it, attached to a piece of wood.

"Let it be." "All is Well." Two incredible images. Two powerful declarations. For me they represent the eternal

Christian truth and message to all mankind. Our response, the response of each and every one of us, is to be, "Yes, Lord. I want You, Lord, as my Lord and Savior," and Mother Mary is one of the best examples of such a positive declaration.

"Let it be" and "All is Well" will hang side by side at the lake to continually remind those who view them of our true Christian heritage. We are to respond "yes" to the Lordship of Jesus, as did His Mother. And with that declaration comes the blessed assurance that "All is Well" in all situations and in all circumstances because of Christ's "yes" to the cross.

The second thing I'd like to share with you is a scripture that has been close to my heart during this whole campaign adventure. It is Isaiah 58:12:

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places:

*thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations;
and*

thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in

At first, I thought that this scripture was about a victorious race and then the focus that my husband and I should have during his terms. That's where I thought it was leading, but now I see I was wrong. I'm still not ready to let go of the scripture, though it still seems to cling to me just as strongly as ever. It claimed me and it is still claiming and clinging to me. My role is to be patient, to seek our Lord daily, and

continually to strive to say "yes" to His calling. I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that at some point in my life this scripture and its meaning for me will become clear, but right now I am just to wait patiently upon the Lord and trust in His ever-perfect timing and revelation.

The third and final piece of information I'd like to share, Pilgrim, occurred on election night. Donald J. Claxton, who was in charge of all the media, said, "Did you see it? Lucy, did you see it?"

"Did I see what?" I asked.

"The rainbow. The rainbow! It stopped raining right when it was time for the party to start and I looked up," he said, "and right over the campaign sign was a complete rainbow!"

I smiled and he smiled. He'd been my rainbow reporter all during the campaign.

A rainbow is the ultimate sign of hope, of promise, of victory, but you may say, Pilgrim, "But you lost!" Ah, but no, we didn't. That's the grace of an adventure when Christ is at the helm. There's never a defeat, never a loss, never a failure as long as we are continually seeking His face. That's the mystery of His cross. All is not as it seems. There's victory even in the darkest of times - there's always a rainbow in sight because of a cross worn by our Lord Jesus.

*I am your victorious sister in Christ,
Lucy*

P.S. I would like to end by quoting St. Clare of Assisi:

"Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road,

Go forth without fear,

For He that created you has sanctified you,

Has always protected you,

and loves you as a mother.

Peace, Pilgrim. God bless.