

“Echoes of the Heart”

Reflections on Life and Community Living

Contact Dr. Frantz on the web at www.mlcchurch.com

Of what will our children sing? With all the upheaval in recent times, we cannot keep ourselves from wondering: what kind of a world are we passing on to our children and grandchildren? In other words, *Of what will our children sing?*

The best of our generals pursue a winning strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Our expert economists seek enduring solutions to our beleaguered economy. Our politicians volley contentiously back and forth about health care reform; and the nations of the earth come together to sort out the challenges of climate change. In the big picture of life on planet earth, there's a lot going on and even more at stake.

It's with this world in the background that the holy days of the season play out; a time when we retell our sacred stories and do our best to spread hope and promise throughout our families and communities.

All along, our children listen and soak up the stories which will eventually morph into memories for future anticipation and expectation. Still, the question lingers: when their time comes, *Of what will our children sing?*

Will our children's memories evoke promise and hope? Will they sing songs of joy and celebration for the lives we have bequeathed them, or will the verse of their songs be punctuated with uncertainty and fear?

Listening to the future. Always, the future has a voice. It speaks out of anticipated unfoldings based on current realities. It can be useful to ask ourselves, What do we want the future—ten or twenty years from now—to say about us? What memories would we want lifted up? What values and commitments would we want recalled? Again, *Of what will our children sing?*

The point is, we have to act today in ways that bring about the world we want our children and grandchildren to live in.

For examples, I want my children and grandchildren to know our sacred story and the story of our families. I want them to value education, equal opportunity and peace with justice for all peoples. I want them to appreciate cultural diversity and a global view of life.

I want them to be moved by beauty and to be passionate in their pursuit of truth. I want them to see the interconnectedness of all things and to value poetry more than prose and compassion more than money.

The future we hope for and anticipate has much to teach us about the choices we make today. Conversely, what we do and do not do, inexorably, plants the seeds for the

dawning of tomorrow.

Our sacred stories tell us who we are and point us in the direction of who we can become. For our children to sing in ways that make us proud, we have to help them discover who they are. This is one of our most important functions as parents/grandparents.

For Christians, the story focuses on Mary, pondering deeply the incredible wonderment that lies cradled in her arms. What will this mean? An act of love so profound, so riddled with mystery and hope that, all over, the world takes a deep breath and redefines its trajectory.

Our sacred stories hold before us the best of God's promises. May the young ones in our families learn their story in ways that one day inspires poetry in the songs of their hearts!

Of what will our children sing?

O that they would sing of a world where love and simple decency and civility for all people fill the morning air? Of a planet that has taken responsibility for the beauty of its creation and for the sanctity of its heavenly endowments.

O that our children would sing of a people who came to know that the hope of humankind anywhere is to be sister and brother to humankind everywhere. May it be so!