

# The Bamboo Tree Reflection

By Pat Kennedy MPS

News today comes in many forms; loss of life, explosions, fires, loss of jobs, refugees crossing hundreds of miles of sea in dangerous conditions, searching for a life that they believe we are experiencing.

In the midst of all this, it can be difficult to believe without a struggle, in a God who loves all and wants our good; a God who is there for us in every moment and need. Most of us experience a struggle to hang onto this in difficult times and yet this is the Faith and Hope we are all called to believe in, in following and witnessing to Christ, and by our Baptism called to become Him.

There was a plantation surrounding a house and within the house was the Master, the owner of all around him. Outside the front entrance stood a Bamboo Tree, tall, straight and magnificent, admired by all who passed by. Every morning the Master came out and stopped and looked at him and he always asked the same question. "Bamboo, do you love me?" and the answer was always the same, "Master you know that I love you, you have given me all that I am, you know I love you and I would do anything for you."

One day the Master came by as usual and stopped and asked the same question and received the same reply, but today he looked at the Bamboo with great love in his eyes and said, "That's good Bamboo, because today I am having you chopped down." Bamboo was stunned! "Oh no Master, you can't do that," he cried, "I have stood here tall and straight, admired by many for so long!"

"But Bamboo," the Master replied, "You said that you loved me and that you would do anything for me!" "That's true Master, but if you intend to cut me down, may I lie long and straight across the ground and still be seen by those who pass?"

"Well actually no" replied the Master, "I have a vision of the role you have and its finally coming to fruition" and so it was. The Bamboo was cut down, chopped into many pieces each hollowed out and then piece by piece carried to the corner of the plantation which was dry and arid, where nothing grew, there was no life, except for a tiny spring, dribbling into the earth and disappearing.

Each piece of the Bamboo was laid in a line from the spring, out into the dry land and the water trickled steadily onto it and followed its path and over spilled through the cracks between the pieces and eventually off the end of the channel. Before long shoots began to spring up, insects appeared, birds began to arrive and land and life was born in that place.

One day the Master came by and stopped and again looked with great love at the Bamboo and asked the question, "Would you like to go back now and stand at my front door Bamboo?" Without any hesitation the sharer of his life replied, "No thank you. I have found my true calling, I am grateful for the dream you had for me. I am happy here where I am, serving as I do, bringing life to your earth.

**Charles de Foucauld wrote a prayer that expresses what Bamboo learned and lived.**

*"Father I abandon myself into your hands, do with me whatever you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you. I am ready for all. I accept all. Let only your will be done in me and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father."*