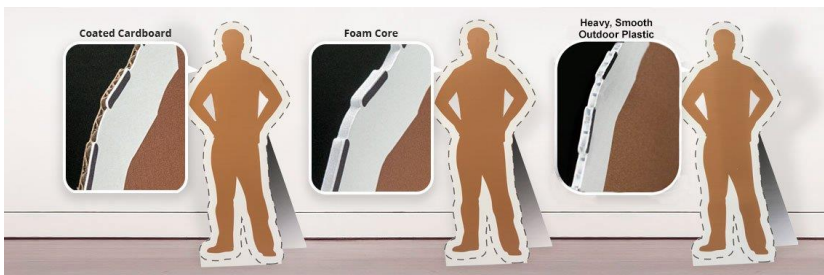


## Grace Notes in Miniature

For Friday, May 29, 2020

Dear friends:

As so often happens, something catches my fancy and becomes the focus for my day's musings. Today, a tweet from a friend about a politician sending a cardboard cut-out of himself to a social event started a whole domino line of thoughts. I actually found some websites which specialize in making life-sized cut-outs and who are doing a roaring business right now! You send a photograph and get a standing image for about \$60 US. Believe me, I'm tempted!



It's likely all of us have been involved in meetings or events on occasion when we have felt that a cardboard cut-out would have had the same effectiveness as our live presence; perhaps we thought that being there was a waste

of time as either we felt we had nothing to contribute – or that what we wanted to contribute was ignored or not valued. You could equate that to being invisible. Some people are “invisible” because they don't want to be seen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAfyFTzZDMM>; more often, it is because they have been ignored so often, whether intentionally or otherwise, that they start to feel that way and no longer expect to be noticed. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bs9Lt1QEyLA> The recent disclosures about conditions in long term care facilities and homes for the aged have brought one group into focus; however, we can easily compile a list of many other groups and people who are “out of sight, out of mind”. <https://invisiblepeople.tv/about/> is an American organisation which is trying to raise consciousness about the plight of the homeless and, here in Canada, we have <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/invisible-people> and many charitable groups which are doing the same. This glass sculpture by UK artist Luke Jerram was trying to make the point that we are unlikely to pay any attention to people in our streets unless they get in our way. Unfortunately, they are also the people whose programs are most likely to be cut in the name of fiscal restraint where profit trumps people. They may be suffering from



mental or physical health issues or addictions, have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, belong to a culture or community we have marginalised because they don't look/act/think/dress/worship/eat/live/party/dance like we do. The point has been made over and over through history – by Aristotle, and Ignatius of Loyola, many people in between and many people since – that children have to be taught to marginalise others.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZSt1pgjQdk> With this in mind, we need to recognise how great is the responsibility of parents, educators and people of faith to maintain an environment and culture where every child, and indeed every person, is treasured, valued and respected.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q77uRQxKDCY&list=RDG88rhg1W4xw&index=3> We dream of a day when we shan't need to raise consciousness about equity and justice, but we still have a lot of work to bring about the Kingdom here on earth! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G88rhg1W4xw>



As we celebrate Pentecost this weekend, let's consider how we can use each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which has been entrusted to us to build up this

Kingdom, in our homes and classrooms and communities. Let's work to make sure that we don't treat anyone we encounter as a cardboard cut-out – but also develop the courage to not let ourselves be treated that way either. Each of us is a child of God: priest, prophet and king by virtue of our baptism and the anointing which was a part of that Sacrament of Initiation.

You may be interested in this Pentecost Retreat offered online through Aleteia:

[https://aleteia.org/unleashing-fire-online-pentecost-retreat/?utm\\_source=newsletter\\_en&utm\\_medium=letter\\_29052020&utm\\_campaign=pentecost\\_retreat](https://aleteia.org/unleashing-fire-online-pentecost-retreat/?utm_source=newsletter_en&utm_medium=letter_29052020&utm_campaign=pentecost_retreat)

Today I am signing off with one of my favourite pieces of music: Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man": enjoy! And may you have a wonderful Pentecost weekend.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmFqNFqqoRU>

With every blessing,  
Gillian