

Spiritual Fabrics

by Bernie Meyer

As one of the costume designers for theatrical performances at a local high school, I typically outfit a cast of many different shapes and sizes. The overall process is straightforward: determine what costumes are needed, find the fabric, and create each piece. Taking into consideration the time period, the setting, and every character, we begin by choosing fabrics, either altering existing, good quality garments or starting from scratch to create a brand-new piece. Things get more complicated as we begin matching costume to cast member, taking a garment in or letting it out, sewing additional material here or there, and adding embellishments to spice it up. To bring a costume to life, we often bedazzle it with sequins, fringe, or other notions.

This experience often leaves me pondering about the similarities between a show and real life. Each of us has a unique set of spiritual gifts, threads which make up the fabric of who we are. It's important to periodically take inventory, reflect on what threads may be crisscrossing, what adjustments need to be made, and how we might further develop our gifts and discover new ones to enhance our lives. As each thread/spiritual gift is strengthened, so too is the fabric that makes us whole.

The roles we play often require us to alter our plans, let go of something, or adjust to something new. Some of us are willingly cast as leaders—"main characters"—while others are most comfortable as part of the "ensemble," the supporting cast so vital to the human experience. Over the course our lifetime—and maybe even at the same time—we may find ourselves in both roles.

Whatever roles we play, costumes we wear, and gifts we possess, we are all threads of the great tapestry that is humankind. And we are all witness to the Holy Spirit alive and working within us and throughout God's diverse world.

In what ways are you in need of a spiritual adjustment?

How can you embellish or add threads to the fabric of who you are?

Reflect on your past and present roles. Are you most comfortable as a main character or part of the ensemble? Why?

Creator God, we thank you for our very being. Strengthen each thread that makes up the fabric of who we are. Help us let go when we need to, and stretch and grow as we must, so that we can become who You created us to be. Strengthen us, that we might in turn strengthen the tapestry of humankind. In Your name, we pray. Amen.