

TRIBUTE – JOHN QUIGLEY

BY Diane Laake

JOHN QUIGLEY TRIBUTE
NJC 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
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Since this is a tribute and not a roast, I guess I will have to save some of my best stories for another time. Like the one about John dismantling my entire kitchen in household on the first afternoon after he moved into Mellwood Household...or reminiscing about what good fortune it was to be on a JQ traveling team where you knew a superb meal would somehow be included instead of a quick stop at McDonald's! Perhaps we can share more at John's 50th anniversary of his ordination next winter – winter solstice 2022. Save the date!

Distilling a 45-year friendship and a 50-year legacy of inspiration, passion and service into 3 minutes is impossible.... But here are some highlights I think we can all agree on:

*How many of us have John to thank for expanding our **language and imagery for God in prayer?** “Beautiful Creator God... source of all goodness, light, and creativity.... God of the infinite, unfolding ever-expanding universe.... Divine mystery of surprises and the unknown...etc, etc, ...”. John opened a new vocabulary and sense of imagination that engaged the heart but also expanded our vision. Creation, abundance, extravagance, exuberance – these too are God-verbs.

*Anyone who was involved with New Jerusalem from the mid 1980's through 2010 was blessed to have their hearts and minds and sometimes even their homes opened to the **global need for justice, reconciliation, and respect for the dignity of all through John's work with various Franciscan Justice and Peace organizations.** I know how grateful I am for the opportunity to have encountered so many remarkable, inspirational and transformational people who were deeply committed to a new order, a new vision for inclusion, and a search for real justice and peace because of John's collaboration with them. Bosnia, Brazil, Pakistan, Columbia, and Tanzania – these were just a few of the countries home to Friars and Franciscan sisters who labored for justice and came to New Jerusalem and taught us how to walk in solidarity and hope with them.

*John also showed us the **path to wholeness, forgiveness and freedom through the gate of vulnerability and humility.** His personal stories, experiences and insights that often brought him (and the rest of us) to tears as he spoke, enabled us to let our ego-guards down and trust that Unconditional Love could transform our worst fears and failings. Whether gathered around the eucharistic table or the dining room table, John invited us into that great mystery of sacrifice, surrender, and ultimately salvation.

And so much more....

John, on behalf of the 1000's of women and men whose lives have been forever changed for the better because of the gift of New Jerusalem and **your leadership, love, and encouragement,** we have a small gift for you from an artist you know and love.