

WHY ME? WHY NOT? By Joan, Tenant

April 6

Being forced to spend days with Myself as my only companion has been a most uncomfortable experience. St. Anthony has been credited with the comment, "I am my biggest burden." Which makes me believe he spent a lot of time in solitude. Evidently it was time well spent because his memory and words of wisdom live on.

As time passes in isolation I find myself being more challenged than I have ever been in any relationship. Living with Myself as my main source of company has put me in a position best explained as "relationship building and becoming accountable to Myself"...for my attitudes, my behavior, and the choices I make, as well as the way I will arrange my time and priorities without the familiar routines and social interactions I've depended upon before the Corona Virus.

The author, Elizabeth Lesser, wrote about choosing our attitudes. We are choosing "to carry our burdens with a sense of hope for the human spirit." She claims we are choosing to "live for the deeper truths hidden in the pain of the circumstances" Her words brought back memories of my parents living through the devastating Great Depression and the Second World War. Technology has made ancestry available so that we can even go back further to our family roots and the toll on past generations of plagues, epidemics, and wars. I am adding to my Gratitude List the life I have been given because each one of these brave people survived the worst of times so that I could be born into what we have called America's best of times.

When I figured that out I now feel an obligation to these heroes to hope, to learn, to grow and make them proud. That decided, I woke up today with purpose. I found preparing for the day means to show up. Wherever you are BE there! Dressing for the occasion even if I am the only one noticing, I will "show up" and look my best. Choosing to begin the day with this attitude of purpose prepares me for accomplishing small things in a positive way. Thus, balancing my check book, making meals, watering the plants, learning something new on my computer, disciplining myself to write to you. These carried through with the right attitude makes even the little things huge acts of purpose.

Last year my car's license plate carried the letters "JYU". When renewal time came I found myself missing that old license plate. Each time I approached my car in the lot and I would read "JYU" I whispered to myself, "Joan, why you? And then I would chuckle and answer, "Why not?"

We are not an accident. We are all chosen. God didn't just drop us here via the stork. God planned and prepared this world for us through word and actions of our ancestors who endured. Let's make them proud.

Your neighbor,