



Photo by CP

**Simple, splendid pansies grace my porch door
where they wait each day
for me and for my watering can
to quench their thirst, refresh their roots,
to strengthen them,
lest they wilt and droop and die...**

**I get this, Lord.
I know my flowers are thirsty
and I know they wait on me
to wait on them, to feed their beauty,
to freshen them against the heat of day...**

**I visit my porch door friends each day
to shower them with my attention, Lord,
and slake their thirst for what they need
for life
and in return they grow, they bloom,
they flourish and they brighten
all my comings and my goings,
these portal pansies waiting each day
for me to wait on them..**

**My soul is thirsty, too, Lord,
and waits each day for me to water it
with my attention, care and prayer
that it might grow, bloom, flourish
and brighten all my comings and goings,
this soul of mine waiting on me
that I might wait on you, Lord,
that I might wait on you...
Amen.**

There are two places I treasure in my daily life.

One is the small chapel in my house. It was a sunroom, a sitting room, located on the back of the rectory, but for years it's been my prayer room. It has just enough room for a chair in one corner and a tabernacle in the opposite corner. An icon of Christ, an image of the Blessed Virgin some handcrafted religious art, several candles and a small bookcase complete the room. In the morning and again at night it's a quiet, peaceful refuge from all else, a place for me to sit down with the Lord and look at the day ahead and, later, at the day as it ends.

My other favorite place is seasonal: it's the porch on the side of the rectory with the pansies (and million bells) keeping watch at the door. As the weather warms, my porch becomes my *cappella al fresco*, a place to sit, to rest, to pray and watch the world go by in Monument Square.

I know it's a luxury to have such space in one's home and I'm thoroughly grateful for it! It's helpful to dedicate a space in your home for prayer, even if it be but a particular chair, a candle, an image, a prayer book or the scriptures. The Lord shows up in our lives every day without fail - it's good to have a predetermined place to meet him!

There's a rumor that summer is still on its way - may the rumor be true! And if it is plan a place, a chair where you live as a place to meet the Lord each day in prayer...

- Fr. Fleming