

Dear Families,

When our family lived for some time in the low hills of Colorado (and when my left knee was still OK) I often went hiking alone in the wild woods behind our home.

There in my solitude God's Spirit would often talk to me when my spirit was open to the so apparent now of that day. Over and over again he would whisper to me that "living things cannot live alone."

On one such occasion he made me aware that the often invisible humble earth worm finds his purpose in life just eating dirt – and so helps every plant around him be able to spread roots more easily – and so assist them each to become green glory in the sun.

From this sudden awareness of the truth that all living things are interdependent I learned that my key role as a Montessori educator of children was to develop a humble heart if I were to help each child placed near my life. That if I hoped to help children become all that they could become in this wonder-filled garden called "Blue Planet," I would have to become as indirect an influence as is the meek worm – and merely eat away the dirt impeding their growth. The life potential of the child is very able to develop if I but only soften up and aerate its learning environment.

I now know the wisdom of how best join my personal life with the meek and humble being of every child measure for measure. I must become as meek and humble as the worm. Call me Doctor Worm, if you will – I really do seek to keep developing a meek and humble heart. Pray for me, for it is not easy for me to become so modest a person.

Peace,

Paul