



Happy Easter! Happy spring! Our 40 days of preparation and reflection have unfolded into days full of new beginnings and celebrations of life and love. What a wonderful time of year!

April is special to me for multiple reasons. Not only does the Easter season remind us of Christ's incredible love for us, but it was this time of year nine years ago that my beautiful daughters, Madeleine and Molly, were born.

Nine weeks early and full of surprises, these two amazing gifts from God entered the world with incredible lessons to share with my husband and me. When I found myself bound to schedules and timetables, these two taught me flexibility and open-mindedness.

When I found myself rushing to get to the next thing, to the next stage, to the next month, my girls invited me to slow down, look around and cherish the smaller (and more important) moments of the day. Most importantly, these two tiny little beings taught me that teachers come in all shapes, sizes and ages. And when we are tuned in, when we are truly present to each other, we are then able to learn and love in the presence of God.

I was recently at an educational conference, and a speaker from Columbia University was sharing advice on being a good speaker. Her suggestion was to look for what we like in other speakers, focus on those positive attributes and work to integrate them into our own style. In a world where we tend to examine each other with a critical eye, this struck me as overwhelmingly important.

We are all a blessing to each other. If we can truly look for what we like in each person we meet, then we also position ourselves for deep learning experiences steeped in love and understanding.

Nine years ago, two beautiful young women entered my life and continue to teach me about life, love and God every day. How fortunate am I to be surrounded daily by 750 more incredible young women, each a teacher, each a blessing to the Magnificat Community.

Yours in faith,
Jen

