A Pondering: God reverences our human resistance

A sculptor approaches the marble with a respect for the hardness and fault-lines of the hunk or slab before him/her. This artist values the strength of the chisel and files with which the marble will be tamed. Harshness or an attitude of defeating the marble is not the artist’s way of proceeding.

In the second chapter of the letter to the Ephesians the writer reflects that we are God’s work of art. God is referred to several times in the Hebrew Scriptures as a potter fashioning God’s people. This God labors with love to continue that same work within us individually and among us as the Body of Christ.

When Jesus meets human beings in the Gospels He encounters them in their limitations, sicknesses and hungers and needs. He approaches them as the Artist of the loving God. He asks them first to be reverently honest about their true condition. “What do you want Me to do for you?” If there is unreverentishonesty, there can not be any healing word and touch.

God is not disappointed, upset, nor hostile toward the hunks or slabs we might name ourselves to be. The Divine Artist loves, finds, embraces us as persons and the human body, and labors patiently to bring out God’s beauty buried within our roughness and resistance. It is easier to reverence the finished product, but here we are living within the Artist’s workshop.