

## Reflections

March 2008

The wonder of seeing the full eclipse of the moon (the night of February 21-22, 2008) was present in a friend's voice on the phone the next day. Did you see the eclipse of the moon last night, she asked? Regretfully, I had not.

With delight in her voice, she began describing this great show in the heavens, giving me a vicarious experience of this predictable but unusual event. She described the gradual movement of the full moon into the Earth's shadow

and the eventual lining up of the sun, Earth and the moon for close to an hour. The reddish color of the moon--the result of indirect sunlight still reaching the moon after passing through Earth's atmosphere--surprised and delighted her. As did two other unexpected treats in the clear sky: the ringed planet Saturn shining brightly on the left side of the full moon and Regulus, the brightest star in the Leo constellation shining clearly on the right.



Clearly this experience, heightened by a nearly cloudless sky, had moved my friend deeply, reaching into her spirit. I could imagine the beauty of the moon glowing softly in her eyes and heard a smile full of gratitude in her voice. Her sharing drew me into what felt like a precious contemplative experience. She enabled me to join her in taking a long loving look at one part of the universe story in which our lives are immersed.

### **For your reflection:**

Sharing an experience which moves us deeply--be it a story of joy, wonder, sorrow or struggle--can evoke a conversation that invites depth, wonder, a sharing of meanings or a search for meanings. Ponder a time when you have experienced this quality of conversation.

**Reflection:** What speaks to your heart and experience in this reflection?

By Mary McCann, IHM