

University Senate President's Reflection – November 2021

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Thanksgiving Thoughts

This is the Thanksgiving month and week! Typically, a time to gather with family and friends to engage in merriment and passive-aggressive squabbles, right? But also, a time for you to express your love and appreciation for *all the good things in life*: family, friends and health.

Regardless of how you will be celebrating it this week — trying out a solo holiday dinner, hosting a Zoom Thanksgiving, organizing an outdoor gathering for a large group or a handful of friends or family — one thing is for sure: Thanksgiving is never dull. And even in a year like 2021, there is always something to be grateful for. In order to avoid going full toxic positivity, I thought I would share some famous quotes with you on this topic.

I like this quote from Marcel Proust: *"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."*

And a few others that capture its spirit with humor:

- Erma Bombeck: *"I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage"* or
- *"Thanksgiving dinners take 18 hours to prepare. They are consumed in 12 minutes. Half-times take 12 minutes. This is not a coincidence."*
- Melanie White: *"Thanksgiving is a time to count your blessings, one by one, as each relative goes home."*
- Anonymous: *"We may not have it all together, but together, we have it all."*
- Unknown: *"Thanksgiving: bringing out the best in family dysfunction since 1863."*
- Johnny Carson: *"Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often."*
- *"Personally, I love Thanksgiving traditions: watching football, making pumpkin pie, and saying the magic phrase that sends your aunt storming out of the dining room to sit in her car."* – Stephen Colbert.
- Carl Sagan: *"If you wish to make an apple pie truly from scratch you must first invent the universe."*

Catherine Pulsifer once said: *"Give thanks not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of your life. Appreciate and never take for granted all that you have."*

Thank you (sic!).