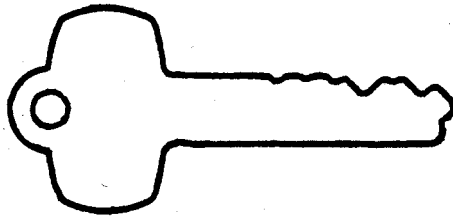


# DAYS



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**"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"**

## **January 26, 1996**

On this the feast of Ss. Timothy and Titus, I place my arm around my younger brother in the Church of Christ's children and offer him direction and guidance.

Bless our faith, O Lord.

(Having completed the revision of my autobiography the day before, I begin the days of this work. Herein there shall be a reflection on the Hand of God working in my days, with particular concentration on the influence of the Eucharistic celebration - attending daily Mass as I now am.

May God be with us always.)

## January 27

It is on this day the actual writing of this work begins, born as it was before the Blessed Sacrament after morning Mass.

The wind does blow fiercely this day, and I feel the Hand of God strongly upon me, calling me again in His Spirit.

The priest steps out into the fiercely blowing wind even as Mass is to begin. "It is a beautiful day," he says (even though it is dark and rainy).

In the gospel, Jesus calms the wind and sea. Who indeed is this man to whom even the forces of Nature are obedient? It cannot but be He is the Son of God.

Let your call remain strong in my heart, O Lord.  
Pierce my soul with your voice.

Let your Spirit lift us from here.

## January 28

Tonight, prior to our intercessory prayer meeting before the Blessed Sacrament, the priest mentioned in yesterday's entry (a native Spanish-speaker), asked me to read tomorrow's gospel aloud for him that he might better understand the words for his reading in the morning. It is this passage of Jesus healing the Demoniac at Geresene that keys today's reflection.

I must confess to a lack of kindness toward a woman who served at our soup kitchen yesterday. The woman behaved insanely - and I'm afraid I was not very understanding of her condition.

Last night I dreamt of approaching insanity myself, and it was a frightening moment. But this morning in prayer I thanked the Lord for this nightmare because through it He revealed to me that I must beware of judging others - for I am not perfect myself and may have some lingering mental unrest... and any health I've found has come only from the Lord and His power.

"Happy are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

O Lord, may we be emptied of pride in our own will.  
May we open ourselves completely to your power  
and your Spirit.

Fill us, O Lord, with your Light.

## January 29

I find the mental unrest I suffer to be predicated upon my paranoia regarding working in this world of sin at a job for which I receive recompense: I fear doing something for money. And so I have longed to simply do my artwork for the Lord.

I learn today that, indeed, the white soul goes through the body, unhindered, and that the Christian passes through the heart of time, unscathed: the work we do need not possess us. And I learn, too, that art is work as well, that it is also a form that is passed through. And I hear that I must learn this lesson before the Lord will give me art alone to do in this world.

And today I find in myself the sin of betrayal. As Absalom did betray his father and even seek his life, so I have been unfaithful to my superiors at work by an unrestrained tongue of judgment and complaint. And I am reminded of how important it is to pray for those in power, for all power comes from the Lord. And we must serve justly those above us, for who will give us what is our own if we are not faithful in what is others'.

Forgive us our trespass, O Lord.  
Restrain our tongue, and bring us into obedience  
under thee.

May we respect your anointed.

## **January 30**

Pride, the most deadly of all sins, is the bane of human life.

In my dream, I am led by the flattery of a thoughtless child... and ridden with anger and impatience at the lack of respect shown my talents and gifts.

The world is not perfect, my child, as you yourself are not perfect.

Indeed, Lord, I am most comfortable when seated in ashes, with dirt upon my head and face - then I am at home in the grace of such humility... then I am cleansed and made whole.

And there is hope of resurrection, if we have but faith; there is hope of freedom in the Lord.

Make us free of our sins, O Lord.

Protect us from pride.

Let us never be distracted by such whisperings;  
    may we remain with thee in light.

## January 31

Walk by eyes of faith, and then you will see; then you will be so strong - then you will know where you are. In the light of heaven will you dwell, if you but trust in the Lord. And you shall enter into His holy authority.

And by His power, you shall enter the breach and call upon His mercy for all the poor, lost sinners - all the tragic lives that lack of His love. But if you follow your own will, what devastation you shall bring upon yourself.

Pray to the Lord, that He may save this lost world.  
Trust in His power, and it shall be done.  
Walk by faith alone, and you will find your way  
in this world.

O Lord, teach us to trust in you;  
teach us to live by faith in your Word.  
Take from our hearts any anxious mediation;  
wash from our wills any thoughts of our own.



## February 1

Is there yet hope the Lord shall send me forth?  
Will it be soon I shall live entirely for Him?  
When will I be prepared?

I woke this morning sensing an anointing upon my hands,  
and a peaceful transcendence in this.

I was asked three times today about my work - about my  
job. I continue uncertain how to answer.

My tutoring continues well enough, yet something is not  
entirely right - I do yet long to give my life more fully,  
more directly to Jesus. And art - writing, music, et.al.  
- I believe to be the call.

To preach the Word, to evangelize in His name, to lay down  
my life in the inspiration which comes from Christ...  
this I think I must do.

And the Lord sends the disciples out two by two,  
and yet must I wait for the word from you?

O Lord, leave me not alone.  
I pray you shall come and save my soul,  
that I shall not fall short of your call.

Truly bless us, O Lord.

## **February 2**

Before the Blessed Sacrament we sit tonight -  
the Lord is indeed present in the temple.  
(Open up, you gates, and welcome Him!)

And despite the confusion that goes on around us,  
the still center, the heart of peace at the core  
of our being remains.

O Lord, may our frail humanness never distract us  
from true worship of you, from being in your presence.

Cleanse away all the things of this world,  
all the thoughts and cares of this place we're in,  
and let the innocent heart of truth grow within us.

## **February 3**

At length, the Lord teaches us, and in time all will become clear, as gradually all is revealed.

O Lord, you are our Master; your word does lead us forth. Your wisdom surpasses our understanding, and yet you pause to explain... and in living with you and the love you bring, peace takes root in our souls.

This lesson I find in my confession today; in my conversation with an elder member of the Church; in the readings and the sermon... even in the TV show I see. Permeating my day is a need for patience to find His wisdom - and a love to find His kingdom.

Speak to us, O Lord.  
Teach us, our God.  
Step by step, lead us to thy glory,  
    that our eyes may be opened, our ears clear,  
    and our hearts in love with you.

Hallelujah!

## **February 4**

God is truly provident. By the power of God we humbly go forth to bring His Light to the nations. (Salt of the earth are the poor in spirit.)

A new day is dawning.

The Lord has given me means to humility, and to His Light. Today, for the first time, I attended 8:00 Mass to perform my lector duties. (The late Mass I normally attend is now gone, and this one is most open.) I have been waking early of late - a true blessing of God - and now I find a way to combat a growing, insidious pride by serving at this least populated celebration.

And there I see mostly the senior citizens, those whom a good friend likes to call the "white-haired saints"; and there I remember the moment after my first confession upon conversion some thirteen years ago - the faith of the old woman beside me as I said my penance.

Lord, you do indeed provide for all our needs.  
Bless us and make us salt of the earth,  
serving the needs of all those around us.

Hallelujah!

## February 5

What is my daily bread? I know I have it (despite my sins). For today the Lord is blessing me. Morning Mass, again (and ever), and the angels guard my steps and smooth the path before me.

Yet this is a day of mourning, for tonight I learned of the death of a victim - a victim of drug abuse, alcohol abuse... self-abuse. She was a woman my own age whom I'd ventured to help, whose call for help I tried to answer a few months ago at our soup kitchen.

But I had lost touch with her and met with her not for some time. And now I pray I have not been guilty of a sin of omission, that my prayers have not fallen short. And I wonder, did she touch the fringe of the garment of the Jesus she cried so desperately to for forgiveness? Is she now in the glory-filled temple of the Lord?

O Jesus, take the darkness from us.  
Cast Satan from our midst;  
    may we not come under his unholy hand.  
May thy holiness alone fill our lives:  
    heal us of our sins.

Amen.

## **February 6**

It is indeed that which is within that matters. It is not the bricks and stones and gold of the temple; it is the prayers offered up from penitent hearts that rise to the throne of God. And who can judge the heart of man? Only God.

It is in this spirit I leave all doubt behind and say good-bye and God Bless to she who has passed away from this earth. It is this which lends me hope for her soul.

O Lord, be with her.

O Lord, in your hands we leave all things.

All things work toward good for those who believeth in you.  
Turn the darkness into light.

Thank you, Jesus King.

## February 7

The eternal glory of God's heavenly kingdom is foreshadowed in the earthly glory God provided Solomon. God raised up Solomon in wisdom and riches to illustrate His power over all things. But even Solomon in all His glory will not be arrayed as the least child in heaven.

I look to find God's glory in all things around me.  
I seek to see the kingdom come.  
I would have my eyes opened to the beauty of heaven  
which exists in all.  
And I see in some measure our blessings.

But the anxiety within me will not allow me to remain in this light. Though I work against it, it persists to some extent. And I know the importance of patience, the ultimate gift, that which will bring us into heaven. For in our patience we possess our souls and so nothing is able to shake us.

Take, O Lord, all the evils that come from my heart.  
All impurities take from me.  
May fasting and prayer purge the sins  
which drag down my soul.

## **February 8**

There is a peace in the hearts of all God's children,  
and that peace cannot be taken away, despite any  
circumstances.

Even as a crumb was left by the Lord for Solomon, a  
remnant despite the extremity of his sin - for the sake of  
his father - so remains that promise to the throne, to the  
holy presence of the Father, in spite of our frail  
humanity. And that crumb is all we need to resurrect our  
souls, if we have but faith in Jesus Christ.

Son of David, take our sins,  
let us indeed be born again...  
Make us salt of the earth in thee.

(We shall be healed and made well  
that we might serve Him in eternity.)



## **February 9**

He keeps blessing me, though I deserve it not.  
He showers me with His gifts, though I should at times  
be rent asunder.

Heal me today He has, when it appeared I might not make it  
through. When it seemed my work would not be done, He  
gave me the strength to go on.

He is my strength and my song; on Him I depend for my very  
life. I only pray I shall serve Him well. I only pray I  
shall find my life organized and shine my light forth -  
for His glory.

Spare me, O Lord, from the fate I deserve.  
Resurrect your life in me.  
Separate me not from thee,  
that I might serve thee truly in thy will.

Accomplish your work in me.

## February 10

I woke today having dreamed of holding a child close to my chest and becoming one with the child (who was my sister), and so, being born again.

We are all one, you see, and the child lives in us all - we must be awakened to see so.

And we are only as good as the worst among us; that is why Jesus died on the cross. Executed as the basest of sinners, He went before us to pave the way for *all* to find redemption. And all are sinners (each of us carries part of the worst with us), and so we all need His salvation.

And so, perhaps today I find forgiveness for the extremity of my sin and the child within me is alive again.

(And as I prepare for sleep,  
there is a child's voice in the street.)

Thank you, Lord, for going before us.  
Thank you for forgiving the gravity of our sin.  
May all men come and drink at your fountain,  
that all may become as children again.

## February 11

Blessed is He who lives in the Light of the Law of the Lord; none shall ever disturb him. He shall come to heaven's gates and dwell with the Mighty One of Israel: He who holds the world in His hands. (And so free shall he be.)

But woe to him who leads one of these little ones astray! For the Lord watches over His innocent children, who live so precipitously in this dangerous world, who are so vulnerable to this world's deceit. But the violence done them shall not go unrewarded - the evil one shall meet his fate.

Cars run over innocent animals; little girls are raped; the world is a dark and oppressive place. But the Light of the Word of God and its Truth will destroy all darkness, and call His children Home.

O Lord, may we follow you closely.  
May we protect your little ones.  
Take even the inkling of approval and, so,  
    participation in sin from our souls,  
        that we might live and breathe freely again.

## February 12

I was struck to the heart and refreshed therefrom upon reading the beginning of the letter of James first thing this morning. For I had been becoming aware of the doubt which is my major sin and how I am on the storm-tossed sea. And reassurance I found in weathering the trials of nightmares of the night before.

We should need no sign. We should have the faith.  
We should go on that faith and not question at all  
anything that comes our way.

Why do we seek so vainly? Why is doubt so wrought in us?  
Why do we not simply go our way, with the Light of the  
Lord?

Accept the blessings the Lord does offer.  
Be as His children of Light.

O Lord, be with us in our trials.  
Give us eyes to see always  
the good that ever awaits us in you.

## **February 13**

Blessed are the Lord's instructions. Blessed are the ears which hear and the eyes which see. For we indeed hear and see that which even the apostles were blind to before the Spirit descended upon them.

But now that Christ has come and the Spirit has fallen upon us, how blessed are we as we enter into eternal life.

The leaven of the Lord leads to heaven; it grows gradually within us to eternal life. The leaven of the world leads to destruction, for in it is vain pride alone, whereas in the word of the Lord is all truth.

The Lord instructs me greatly of late, and so I am so blessed. And so the Light which comes only from Him falls upon me, and so all temptations fall away.

Bless you, Lord.

Thank you for your Word and your Law.

They bring light to my eyes,

and cleanse me and make me whole.

Stay with me, Lord, and speak your word to waiting ears.

## **February 14**

Reflect the Light of the Lord in all you do. Shine forth His Light as the child He has formed you to be. Forget not your calling all the day.

Throughout the day I try to remember to bridle my tongue, to not fall so easily into anger and impatience, but to remember the Lord and His law. Consistently I recall His words, and though not perfect, I manage to check myself. (But so much work needs yet to be accomplished.)

Let us hold up the mirror of your truth, O Lord.  
Let us shine forth your mercy.  
Heal us, O Lord, of our blindness to your presence  
in our lives.

May our eyes see only you.

## **February 15**

A miracle today.

James speaks of putting aside all favoritism, of favoring no pomp and circumstance, but treating the shabby equally. (We are all brothers and sisters in the Lord.)

And to whom do I give the cup; who is the last person in line today to receive the Blood of Christ? A homeless man.

I have not seen a homeless man in the church before. But today he comes, and leaves his cart outside the center doors. (And near the statue of Mother Seton - my special saint - he sits as I leave the church.)

Was he an angel?

O Lord, teach us not to judge by what we see.  
Let us look upon the heart, as do ye.  
May we come to all men equally,  
    setting all distractions aside.

Help us to 'love one another as ourselves.'  
Let us never judge as the world judges;  
    let us lay down our lives with thee.

## **February 16**

Faith and works...

And today I drive through a snowstorm to pick up food for the soup kitchen, and buy a pair of shoes for a man in need.

What a blessing it is to serve the Lord, to be able to give to the poor. For if we are able to give to others, we must be well cared for.

And this is the will of Christ, the life of Christ - to give unselfishly. This is the breath and blood of our Lord. And entering into that kingdom, we find the blessing of the righteous.

Take up your cross and follow Jesus.  
He will be your light in any storm.

Jesus, may we serve you, and come to know the blessings  
of a life of sacrifice.  
May we indeed work for you.



## February 17

And the glory of God shone all about Him...

And it shone all about us this day at the soup kitchen;  
His blessed Hand was truly upon us. In witness, in  
service, in music, and in love - the Lord's mercy did  
bless us all.

Your glory *is* marvelous to behold, O Lord. Your hand at  
work in this world transcends all expectations and lifts  
us to your throne - where we see your face shine so  
brightly. (Praise you, God.)

And He does His work in us: He forms us in His image,  
taking from us what should not be there.

Bless us always, O Lord.  
Make us strong in your Name.  
Cleanse our tongues  
and steer our ships to thee.

## February 18

Are not the ways of the Lord marvelous to behold?  
Does He not work mightily in our lives?  
Are we not in His very Hands?

Again I have been afflicted with a nightmare, as my prized possessions are put in jeopardy. And in fear and toward violence I react as the perpetrators threaten my car, guitar, and bag which holds my writings.

And what is the gospel today but to love your enemy:  
if your shirt is threatened, give your coat as well.  
And truer words never were spoken - for if we readily  
give up all we have, have we not conquered their bondage?  
(And has the Lord not the power to restore all things,  
and more, if we but believe?)

(And did I tell you yesterday that the ground was  
blanketed with snow - all covered as one? And all were  
out shoveling at the same time, which caused a man on my  
block to remark: "I've never seen it like this before.")

O Lord, may we be perfect as thou art perfect,  
loving all equally,  
and laying down our lives without hesitation -  
that indeed we may be free.

## February 19

This morning I found a doubt in my soul about the purgation I am undergoing by rising early, attending daily Mass, and finding sexual purity... and the doubt was as of the darkness of temptation and a sense of rigidity in devotion.

And in the gospel, Jesus performs one of His most dramatic cures, as He heals the mute child long-possessed by an evil spirit. And I am encouraged, because it is by prayer and fasting (and the grace of God) that I am being rid of my darkness. (And a stifled sneeze near the altar seems to awaken me.)

I am also humbled twice today. Once by learning of a poor decision I made - praise the Lord for His truth. (It sets us free.) Then later, when expecting joy, I am made weak and somewhat sick in my stomach. And I do not understand why until, while bowling with my friends, I realize this humility is keeping me from boasting, is guarding my tongue... and after seeing this, I bowl '197,' quietly.

O Lord, keep me humble always.  
O Lord, let me never doubt thee and thy way.  
O Lord, continue thy work in me.

## **February 20**

This morning in prayer I felt what a glory it would be to have my hands cut off and my tongue cut out: I then would be free of pride and any troubling self-will.

(Take my life, O Lord!)

The least among us is indeed greatest, as he who humbles himself is exalted by God. And as children we must be before the Lord, accepting His will so completely.

Let us mourn and weep as we enter Lent. Let us indeed become so low. For in this lowliness is certain truth which will set us free, for mere dust and ashes are we. (And there is much in this world deserving of tears.)

O Lord, strip me bare;  
let me ever yield to your Spirit.  
May we find such humility,  
such blessed peace and serenity  
as comes from bowing to thee.

## February 21

Ash Wednesday, and the Lord has blessed me graciously with knowledge of that which I need to amend my life - generosity of spirit.

Initially, I naturally thought this meant to give more freely to those in need: to donate more money to charity. And though this is necessary and advantageous to my soul (for I am too conservative or "cheap" with money at times), I soon realized generosity must extend to all matters.

I saw that I should, specifically, share my talents more freely with others; as I do not expect recompense or even gratitude for gifts given, so should be my attitude when offering music or poetry to another. And generally, my entire character should be one which is ready to give, ready to serve.

And in the humility of such generosity, I found great joy and love this day.

Thank you, Lord, for your word.  
Thank you for watching over me.  
Please see that I complete this work  
thou hast begun in me.

## February 22

The Chair of Peter, and the affirmation of yesterday's message.

In the version of 1 Peter read at Mass, generosity was the key word; and it is generosity that is needed by those who serve Christ.

Generosity of spirit is the leaven for all Christ's disciples. Not for money, not out of pride, not by constraint do those who serve Jesus work - but with a generous, giving spirit. This shows authority which comes from above, for all selfishness is taken away.

Do the work of the Lord and live your life in love, in peace, in giving of yourself and trusting in the Lord. If Jesus is the Son of God, what need you fear in serving Him?

Thank you, Lord, for anointing Peter and blessing  
your Church -  
for bringing new leadership, not of this earth,  
but of your Word.

Teach us to walk in right paths with you.  
Help us to lay down our lives in truth.

## **February 23**

A hug for a cousin on the anniversary of her husband's death; alms for the poor (as penance for my unnecessary scraping together of change for laundry yesterday); and a kindness in tutoring - but improvement is yet needed.

(It seems the ashes upon my forehead made more real my commitment to humility and joy in service of the Lord, as they provided opportunities to explain and defend my faith on Wednesday...

Must apply myself more conscientiously to full service of the Lord.)

O Lord, soften my heart in all circumstances.  
May my sacrifice be a contrite heart and a loving spirit.  
Let me find myself sharing your life with others.

## February 24

Continued weekly confession (though the Columbian priest with whom I've been making such progress this past month or so is to be transferred in two weeks, and I know not if this should go on...) - attaining to life in God's grace and not life of this world. The Church needs saints, and I would like to lay down my life so. (The promise of the Lord is true.)

And we have another blessed day at the soup kitchen. I even attempt a call to repentance, after another patron died this week.

And a call for unity goes forth...

O Lord, bless us so.  
Let us see thy miracles in our midst.  
Work thy wonders amongst us,  
and bring us to thy throne -  
to that place most natural to our souls.



## **February 25**

I have decided to follow Jesus.

Another windy day, even as the candidates for Confirmation are introduced at church. (Come, Holy Spirit!)

And I see in the readings today that the temptations of the devil which Jesus overcame are paralleled by those of the serpent which Adam fell to. The fruit was "good for food" ("man does not live by bread alone"); it was "pleasing to the eyes" (Jesus resists looking upon the magnificence of the kingdoms of the earth which the devil shows to Him); and it was "desirable for gaining wisdom" (Jesus confutes the devil with understanding come from God - "Scripture also has it...").

And do we decide to follow Jesus, who has come to restore our lives in their rightful place under God; or do we follow Adam and our own carnal appetites, damnable pride, and limited, earthly minds?

O Jesus, may we follow you who hold life and truth.  
May we dedicate ourselves to overcoming our desires  
and finding the wholeness that you bring.

Give us the breath of life.

## February 26

There is a peace which is falling upon me.

And in the morning of late, the birds sing sweetly,  
serving to cleanse my soul of fear.

And this afternoon there was "chirping" (using the word of a fellow tutor) amongst the ESL tutees (mostly Spanish-speaking) who come principally to practice their English: I brought in my guitar and we sang some English verse of Christian songs. And a blessed event was this - as well as an opportunity for some soft evangelism...

I am finding love in my heart as well of late - an awakening is upon me. But I must continue to follow the laws of the Lord and the voice of wisdom to complete it; and I must be open to *all* men and women as my brothers and sisters and maintain the innocent vision of Christ.

Jesus, continue to guard my heart with the Spirit of Wisdom.  
Continue to bless me with your love -  
that I may come again to the purity of your presence,  
existent in all things and everyone.

## **February 27**

All is in the Hand of God, and comes to be by His Word.

Looking around myself, and seeing - newness in everything... the next moment is never known. And though there is fear in this revelation, it is of the Blood of Christ.

Learn to live in the will of the Lord - nothing is in your hands. All is of God.

And this morning I found great truth in consecrating all things to God, for all is indeed God's. All we have, all we own, all we are belongs to Him. And we sin only against Him; and others sin only against Him, and not ourselves. So, in forgiveness we should say, "There has been no wrong done to me." So complete should your compassion be.

Forgive us, O Lord, any attempts to judge - for all is truly in your Hands.

Let thy kingdom come.

## February 28

Yesterday the Lord taught me a lesson about self-restraint and denial. The day before I had indulged in eating between meals, something I rarely do but which I now chose the time of Lent to do it in. I was plagued with sleeplessness and learned in pointed words at the end of Mass that I must turn from earthly desires to find heavenly graces. (And from this came a penitential practice of putting a dollar in the offering box at the Mother Seton statue on a daily basis.)

And today the priest confirms in His homily yesterday's conclusion, "Thy will be done," as he asks how much we allow the Lord to work in our lives and how much we require our own ideas and plans to be put in practice.

And as for today - Jesus is risen from the dead.  
We have the only sign we need.  
Have faith.

Thank you, Lord, for opening my eyes to your glory,  
to your presence at the right hand of God.

And forgive me please for being so lowly -  
let me not forget my lowliness  
that I might ever be blessed.

## February 29

Seek the kingdom of God - this I must do. For I find myself tempted and questioning still my status in life... is my blessing to be married or single and devoted to Christ? (And let love never turn to lust.)

The Lord's light is with me in my tutoring today, and in reading Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* I see reflected God's word that He would send a share of His Spirit to the nations. And in the writing of this Gentile is foreshadowed what is fulfilled in Christ.

Knowledge of the Lord is a wondrous thing.  
It fills all with light and makes you think.  
Praise the Living God!

O Lord, be with me.  
Protect me from harm. Guard and guide me.  
Let thy will alone be done in my life,  
that I might come to thy eternal light.

## **March 1**

The strait path is of love. It is of the Lord.  
And wholesomeness fills that strait path.  
And the blood of Christ anoints those on the path.

Stay on the strait path. Enter through the narrow gate.  
Do not turn your heart away from following Him.  
Though the words of Christ do seem severe, they do but  
lead to life, which is only glorious to behold.

Watch over us, O Lord.  
Guard our hearts and souls.  
Cleanse our minds and make us whole.

May we not be distracted from your truth,  
which brings life.

## March 2

We need Jesus as our Savior. We must believe in Him.  
He is the Son of God. He is Light and Life, and Love.  
We must learn the way of Love.

Loving our enemies brings such peace. This morning in  
prayer for others, even my enemies, I found release from  
deep temptation and sinfulness.

We must shed our light upon all, and love all; not  
judging, we must wish forgiveness and the life eternal on  
all people - offering light to all, even as the Father,  
even as the Son. We must be perfect even as the Father is  
perfect, for perfection is completion, is fulfillment of  
our call.

And I hear a call to dedication of myself to single life  
in confession this day. And even as I consider this  
decision, noble women are presented to my mind - and I am  
weak. How do I commit myself to Christ? - In love.

O Lord, teach me what love is,  
and to love.  
Help me to fulfill your call to me,  
whatever it may be.

Help me to find perfection in thee.

## **March 3**

The vocations director visits our parish,  
and this is a day of calling.

Moses is called by God to leave Haran. The calling  
of Christ as the only Son becomes known in the  
transfiguration. We are called to be a holy people...

And I find a calling and a meaning in single life, as a  
parishioner seeks a Eucharistic minister for her ailing  
mother. She goes through a list of possibilities before  
coming to me; all the others, dedicated though they are,  
had appointments with their spouses - I was the only  
person available.

The single man gives his life for everyone,  
unattached to anyone as he is.

O Lord, if it be so that this is my calling,  
strengthen me in confidence in it.  
Take my life, O Lord,  
and do with it what you will.



## March 4

From exile we call unto you, O Lord.  
We are in exile in this world,  
though the kingdom of heaven is all around us.  
Though the kingdom is within us,  
we are blind, and we are deaf to its call -  
the beating of the heart we cannot hear.

Compassion we need - Love.  
Giving full measure of love,  
we shall step into the kingdom  
and find His graces running over  
even here, even now.  
Forgive, and live in love.  
Hallelujah!

This morning to church I went, early,  
to offer my hour of prayer  
before the Blessed Sacrament  
(rather than in my bed).

First to open the doors - will this be a lasting grace?

O Lord, let your love fall all around us  
and surround us with your grace.  
Let us swim in your glorious blessings -  
take us from here, I pray.

## March 5

Reminded today that we are in Lent:  
must be conscious of sin and that I am a sinner  
in order to find purgation necessary to prepare  
myself for Easter... time for Penance.  
(And sinful I am.)

Humility really is key to discovering the kingdom -  
'the humbled are exalted.' And it is so, that the humbler  
I become, the more I am prepared for the coming kingdom.

Remember your sins.  
Be not ashamed on that day.

O Lord, uproot the sin from me -  
let it be cast in the ocean.  
Take that which keeps me from thee  
and cast it into the sea.

Bring me wholeness and wholesomeness:  
I am a sinner.

## March 6

The Lord is my shepherd -  
why should I tremble in fear?

And yet my heart does start  
at things that go bump in the night,  
at illusory shadows of darkness.

And why?  
Why should I fear for my life...  
my life is in God's hands.

Faith must increase,  
and lay down my life I must -  
in generosity and with a serving spirit.  
(I do wish to be set in your kingdom, Lord.)

The prophet and priest must trust in the Lord  
and follow where His steps do lead.

Take all fear from me, Lord.  
Let me protect in vain  
nothing of this life.

May all be offered at the foot of your cross:  
you redeem us from all darkness.

## March 7

This day is revealed unto me the coldness of my heart.

Lazarus lay in the gutter, a beggar for crumbs, as the rich man feasts sumptuously. And, yesterday, I recall the look on the little girl's face and the entreaty in her voice as she asks me to buy candy for a special cause. And though there is ten dollars in my wallet, I lie, and say I have not the money. And I justify this lie (to myself) by saying I have set the money aside for gasoline, and I justify this lie to the girl by saying I may see her another day - though there is little chance I will.

Where is my generosity of spirit?  
Where is my freedom in giving?  
Why do I ignore the voice of the Lord?

And the ice of freezing rain, which covers the land  
this day, reflects the terrible coldness in my soul.

May this be the end, O Lord.  
May I resolve to open my heart to all in need  
from this day forth.

Amen.

## March 8

Who can fathom the ways of God?  
He leads us on a path we would not tread -  
yet His blessing is always with us.

The providence of God is a marvel to behold.  
And no greater example of the providence of God  
at work is there than the life of Joseph.  
And blessed be Joseph to recognize the Hand of God  
at work in his life, and accept his fate.

This is the eve of the departure of our Columbian priest.  
He has been much-loved and much-loving, and so there is  
sadness at his going to another parish. I myself have  
found great grace in confession with him of late, and am  
uncertain what the future shall hold for this practice.  
But faith in God makes all things right. Trust in Him  
brings us to Light.

And in my own life today I see the Hand of God at work  
in subtle ways - and I thank Him for His watchful care.

Lead us through our lives, O Lord.  
May our paths be straight and lead to you.  
May your providence bless us so,  
that all is well in you.

## March 9

Confirmation of working of divine providence this early morning. Final Mass by and confession with Columbian priest. The gospel is the parable of the Prodigal Son. (No more appropriate passage for penance and the one read the day I returned to the Church after five years away.)

In response to question of March 4 - yes, it would seem so. Received enthusiastic approval by pastor to enter church early and have been doing so...

Final words re divine providence:  
"lo que Dios quiera."

O Lord, praise you for your grace and mercy;  
your Word is Life for us.  
May we thirst for you alone in our lives  
and follow you more closely each day -  
let our only desire be your perfection.

## March 10

Is the Lord calling me to devote myself to single life?  
The gospel and especially today's sermon seem to be  
directing me so.

The priest points up the marriage aspect of the story of  
the woman at the well - that Jesus is essentially inviting  
her to marry Him, as He asks all of us to be His bride.  
(Priest professes his own marriage to Christ.)

Lord, you are more precious than silver and, indeed,  
nothing I desire compares to you... I must set my heart  
on that which lasts and that which matters, and set aside  
any distractions and all darkness.

Lord, take my life.  
Whatever may be your will for my life,  
let it be done.

If a serious change I need to make,  
let it be done in your will -  
for there is truth.

## March 11

Wash me clean, O Lord, of my leprosy,  
of my sin that is deep within.

The days flow on, one into the next,  
and it is all one day,  
it is all the Lord's day -  
it is all becoming of God.

Wash me clean, O Lord, of my sin.

Aberrations occur, in the pattern, in the flow -  
inexplicable errors unaccepted...  
and yet the heart does soften,  
and yields to its guilt, to its sin.

Deep within, enter in, O Lord, and fill me with light.

He passes through our midst -  
will we see Him as He moves by,  
or will we be blind?  
This is the day the Lord has made.

Come to me, dear Jesus.  
Fortify my heart with the strength of your light -  
let all else fade away.



## March 12

In the refiner's fire, tested and tried as gold,  
we come forth anew,  
all dross purged away.

Last night, while teaching a class, the room was extremely hot. And try as I did to adjust the thermostat, and though I felt cool air coming from the vents, the temperature only increased. In addition, I had forgotten my notes and developed a headache.

Last night I wondered why I was made to suffer and go through this ordeal - this morning's first reading provided an answer... through the fire we come and shine like the sun.

And forgiveness, forgiveness and love of especially our enemies will burn away any remaining impurity.

Refine me in thy fire, O Lord.  
I long to stand with you in purity and light.  
(Absolutely.)

## March 13

Oh yes, the blessing that the laws are,  
the laws the Lord has given to His Church.  
And these laws are never burdensome;  
rather, they are the source of freedom,  
for they keep us from sin, which is the great  
binder of our souls.

And we in the Catholic Church are graced to be descendants  
of Moses and of the Israelites - we are blessed to be the  
keepers of the law of God. Apostolic and sacramental, we  
hold the truth in this world.

And there is so much left for me to know of the ways of  
God, so much I do not understand, so much I am blind to.  
There is so much wisdom and knowledge I lack of the Lord's  
divine plan. I can only pray the Spirit grace me with  
obedience to the Word, that I might continue in His  
presence.

O Lord, forgive me my ignorance.  
Bless my simpleness with thy understanding.  
Let your wisdom rest upon my yielded soul.

## **March 14**

Jesus Christ is all that matters. Jesus Christ is all that is. He is the Alpha and the Omega - and everything in between. Nothing has life in this world except it be of Jesus Christ.

Let your Name be known, Lord Jesus, through to the ends  
of the earth.  
Let the Truth of your presence be exalted  
above any myth.

(Where peace reigns  
and light shines,  
there the love of Christ is known.)

Hallelujah!

## March 15

May God be exalted, and may we indeed love Him with heart, mind, soul, and strength.

And today I am reminded of the power of the holy Name of God (YHWH) as, a few moments before Mass - after having spent an hour in prayer - I kneel again before the Blessed Sacrament and remember to speak the silent Name of God.

This practice had begun to be neglected because of inclination to spoken prayer. But in remembering it today, I again felt the palpable presence of God and a blessed sense of peace therewith.

We must remember that God is always with us; and I must remember this great gift He has given me to enable me to come into His Light. For it is a wonder and joy beyond words (though its gravity can bring a fear of His majesty).

Please let me remember you in all things, LORD.  
Let your Name live in me and guide my days.

## March 16

Every day is a new day.  
Each day brings new hope.  
Today, the dark of the night is vanished away;  
    the light of the new day shineth.

Last night, after giving a teaching to the prayer group on the mark of the beast (666) - after exposing the beast to the light - upon leaving the meeting I found the mockery of young teenagers... then was set upon by darkness of dreams.

But today is a new day, and any fear is open to banishment by the light of the Son. Jesus brings us hope of resurrection even from the dead each new day. And one day I may see one of these children a priest.

The Lord works in mysterious ways, and hope springs eternal with Him.

Lord, by persecutions we are made strong.  
Let us fear nothing of this world.  
Forgive us our sins,  
    as we forgive those who sin against us.

## March 17

Why was I beset by darkness and lack of sleep from disturbing noise? Why this restlessness of the night before? Was it some sin in me which I needed repay? Was this some punishment for lack of discretion or understanding of the word of God?

Or was it to bring me through darkness? Was it to show to me the power of His Light? Was it to show He is at my side always? (Even in the valley of the shadow of death He leads me forth.) Was it to confirm that each day brings new hope in Christ? Was it to open my eyes that I might not be blinded again?

The man was blind from birth not because of his sin, but that he might see and proclaim the power of God.

O Lord, we are so blind in our vision.  
We judge by mere appearances,  
while you look on the heart.

You try our hearts and the thoughts thereof;  
may we not be found wanting, O Lord -  
may our eyes and our hearts be open to you.

## **March 18**

The joy of a new morning is upon us.  
It won't be long.  
A new heavens and a new earth  
    are being formed in the hands of God.  
It won't be long.

Singing a song of joy this afternoon.  
It won't be long; we will be singing forevermore.

It won't be long till the Lord does come.  
It won't be long till His Truth does shine.

Evening falls and joy remains;  
    and joy will fill the night.

And though near accidents occur here,  
and though there are words spoken thoughtlessly -  
and though darkness may fall upon us,  
    our faith will see us clear to thee.

Fill us with the joy of your new day, Lord.

## March 19

By faith we are accounted righteous  
and worthy of the kingdom of God.  
And so only those of faith  
will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Faith is a funny thing.  
It is our very life's breath. Without it we could not go  
on; we would be dead without faith. Every living creature  
must have faith to draw its next breath. And yet this  
which is so germane to our existence is that which we  
doubt the most, that which we question the greatest.

Praised be Mary, that she accepted the Word of the LORD.  
And praised be Joseph, that he doubted not the message of  
the angel. It shall be accounted righteousness to them.  
They are mother and brother to Jesus Christ.

O Lord, may we have such faith in our own lives,  
and come to dwell in your house forever.



## March 20

Come out from the darkness of your prison.  
Share your life with others.  
You are not alone.

I spend my evenings and my nights alone -  
and is this right? Am I selfish, or just a monk?

And today as spring begins, the idea of love is in the air  
and in the Song of Solomon I read. And to whom should I  
be wed? To whom should I give my life? Is it the Lord?  
Most certainly. Is it the Lord alone, though, and no  
woman?

To share my heart, how shall I?  
To open up in generosity and self-sacrifice I must.

Set the path before me, Lord,  
the way that I must tread.  
Make it clear and my life complete;  
may I hold nothing back from thee.

(I love you, Lord.)

## March 21

Strangest weather today - repeated alternation of sun and rain throughout the whole of the day... like an exchange of dream and reality.

And dreamt last night of being able to go back in time twenty years or so with what I know, with the light I've found, and so live the life I've ill-spent aright, purging my past of sins such as drugs and sex - and specifically to keep my sister from dying.

This is but a dream. But this is what Jesus does for us. He has accomplished this for me already. For my sister is now in heaven, and I'm on my way...

Let us not turn back again to the golden calf.  
May our lives be purified of sinfulness.

O Lord, let it be so.

## **March 22**

The shadow of the cross hovers over Christ throughout His time. And through time He comes, and has been coming, gradually, imperceptibly... And I wonder if I would have recognized Him had I been alive when He walked the earth. For His stature was as any other man - His humility was so. I think only by His sacrifice would He have become known to me.

Forgive me, Lord, I know not what I do.  
May I be this day with you in paradise.

## March 23

Some continuance of thoughts from yesterday,  
on a theme of unity.

We are all one in Jesus. This is reality.  
This is His sacrifice: that He became human for us.  
He is a man. This is the wonder.

And the priest and the deacon and the congregation are one.  
And all who receive the Eucharist are one. All are one.  
Eye to eye we must look at one another.

And at the soup kitchen today, listening to the problems of  
the unemployed, I begin to see how much I do not understand,  
how much I lack of care and openness to the lives of the  
poor. (How seldom do we see Jesus in those who are hungry  
and homeless.)

And openness and love mean not only giving, but being open  
to taking as well. We must give and take. There is great  
love offered in others, gifts that others have that we lack,  
that we need. For together we are one, but alone we are  
incomplete.

And thinking of the four corners of the universe, the  
balance of life, and considering the abhorrent practices  
of the Chinese government, how the overemphasis on mind  
has made them heartless to the disabled and the unborn...  
we need one another to balance our inclinations.

O Lord, come. Make all one in you.  
Open our hearts to the presence of you in everyone.

## March 24

Talk of couches given away and taken, and shopped for in stores... and of televisions with big screens and others with multiple features - and seeing these things go on around me I am convicted of my laziness, particularly of the past couple of days - but also inherently.

And at our intercessory prayer meeting tonight, hearing one woman pray for the Lord to bind the hands of the potentially violent, it strikes me that power rests with God; and though I've known this, yet the realization was not so clear: the power *is* with the Lord, and in Him much may be accomplished - call on Him; be in Him.

And I thought that perhaps I may be at a threshold in my life: having spent much time yielding to the Spirit and purging myself of sin, of acting to undo the bad I've done - perhaps now I may be entering a time of *acting* in the Lord, of utilizing that power Jesus gives... and so no longer will I need to counteract the negative; I will be able to act the positive.

Finally, at prayer this morning (and today) felt the presence of an angel palpably beside me. Is this another great blessing the Lord is given me - a new companion?

Lord, take my life.  
Let me live in thee.

## March 25

"And a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and He shall be called Emmanuel..."  
God be with us this day.

And I pray my own angel shall remain with me,  
that I may be so able to do the will of the Lord  
as our Blessed Mother, and as her Blessed Son.  
(I do wish to truly live the life the Lord has for me,  
for I gain in faith in His glory.)

And first thing this morning I see a couch on the street,  
awaiting the coming of the garbage truck.  
May my laziness be so thrown away.

Come to me, Dear Jesus.  
Let me live my life in you.  
I believe in thee.

## March 26

Self-sacrifice. Selflessness.  
This is life. There is life in this.

Offering ourselves for others, emptying ourselves of ourselves sets us free for life, relieves us of all our troubles. If we do not care for our lives, we will not care for our lives. If we open ourselves and care for others, the love of God will fill us complete.

May our lives, too, be lifted up and may we draw people to Christ. May we serve to set them free by our holy example. This is what we are called to be - to lay down our lives as did He. It is the only way, and does set us so free.

Spring is upon us now; may our love grow.  
May we be fools in love with Christ.

Jesus, lift us up in your Name.  
Take all fear from us;  
let us remember the blessing serving you,  
and dying for you, is.

## March 27

Untouched and unharmed by the flames of this world, I grow  
in a purity I have not known for some ten years. And my  
practices serve me well, and prayer maintains the heart,  
and the Eucharist sustains my life as love replaces lust.

My stamina grows in doing good as I awaken from the dead,  
and the hand of the Lord is there to guide me.

Jesus is all, you know - He is absolutely everything.  
The angels serve Him, and the Spirit confirms His presence.  
He alone is worthy, and He alone sets us free.

Hear my prayers, O Lord,  
let the coming of your kingdom fill us.  
Leave us not alone in this world;  
be our protection and our guidance.



## March 28

"Before Abraham was, I am." says the Lord.  
And truly marvelous it is to behold His presence.

Hold on to the vision of the Lord. Hold your faith in  
the Word as Abraham kept faith in God's word to him.  
The promise is sure, and on that day there shall be great  
celebration.

Tangible the kingdom of heaven becomes as we set our lives  
in holy order, as we live our lives according to His word -  
as we are precisely where He has placed us.

The kingdom is here; come to know it.  
You shall never die.

Hallelujah!

O Lord, do set our lives in holy order.  
Let us dwell in your kingdom, even here on earth.  
May eternal life be with us and sustain us.  
May His Light shine all about us, and within us.

Amen.

## March 29

Unexpected weather today - it rained when it was to have snowed and snowed when it was to have rained... but the Lord cleared the sky that I might accomplish all my work for the day. (Praise God! The earth and what is in it is in His hands. Thank Him for His blessings.)

And another blessing the Lord is bringing into my life: He now teaches me I need but six hours sleep a night. I have been praying for direction with regard to sleep, and the Lord hears and answers my prayer. I had been waking early (5:55) to serve the Lord, and now I find I need not lie down until the time approaches midnight. And during the day I am most awake and aware. (Again, praise God!)

The Lord is always with us - answering our prayers, protecting us from harm, sharing with us His works. Strive toward Him always.

O Lord, let me turn not from your prophecy.  
Let the voice within me, calling me to your presence  
and purifying me of sin, be heeded ever by me.

Do let thy will be done in my life,  
for true prophesy is with you.

## March 30

Jesus is the New Covenant. And we are the New Jerusalem; we Christians are the new children of Israel. May we live our lives to the end just so. (For then we shall never die.)

Today is my sister's birthday. And the strongest sense of beauty I find in praying the rosary in church after Mass this morning. Thinking of my sister and the Blessed Virgin Mary, I am filled with a simple wisdom of the eternal life of the saints.

But yet I seem plagued by sin more than usual today. In pride, a wicked tongue of judgment, ignorant speech, and an eye of lust - I falter in my sense of balance... and need to get my bearings straight and make firm my foundation again, in prayer.

Bless my sister, O Lord.  
May all your saints pray for us.  
May we be ever as your children in your fold;  
never let us stray from you, our center.

## March 31

Passion Sunday: it makes me tremble.  
The rejection. The utter rejection. And the pain.  
They know not what they do - but He knows it,  
deep within.

And we learn through suffering; through chastisement  
we are purified and made whole.

And the Lord is teaching me to step back a little in  
leadership of meetings, etc. Even as anxiety begins to show  
itself again in my life, the Lord shows me I must trust more  
in Him, and love more my brothers and sisters, and allow  
them to take more of an equal role. Indeed, my ear must be  
open more and my mouth less. (And new blessings in the  
Spirit He gives us.)

Answer our prayers, O Lord;  
    bless us with your power and light.  
By your stripes and bruises we are healed,  
    and so bring healing to others.

## April 1

"A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick  
He will not quench."

"Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear."

And Jesus sups at the house of a risen Lazarus.

From the brink of death, Jesus rescues. As strength fails,  
He revives us. There is ever hope in Him; and death shall  
have dominion no more.

This morning and this day, so tired, so weary - so dead.  
At prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, I am revived  
(partly in fellowship with a brother). And though the  
tiredness recurs throughout the day, though I am drained of  
physical power - on this first day of Holy Week, I know it  
is so life can fill me... I know it is in preparation for  
the life to come.

And today, the first day of baseball season, The Mets,  
down 6-0, win 7-6. And I have hope of life for an umpire  
who died today.

Take my life, O Lord.  
In you I have faith in life to come,  
despite the darkness all around.

Let us shine your light out to the nations.

## April 2

Darkness falls, and it is night.  
And the darkness shall soon overtake the disciples,  
as to sleep they shall fall and scattered they will be -  
and Jesus will go alone.

But the light shall go out to the nations.

And to sleep I fall today as I cannot keep my eyes open,  
I cannot remain awake. And I am awakened by the sounds  
of violence in the streets.

But yet I am granted the opportunity to teach about Jesus  
in tutoring a student this morning...

And the night is the harbinger of a new day.

Jesus, leave us not alone too long,  
though we do abandon thee.  
Let us follow you quickly to the kingdom;  
shine your light through me.

## April 3

A cold upon me, but the Lord blesses my movements  
and leads me to accomplish my work.

And today the coldness of the human heart is certainly felt  
by Jesus as He is betrayed by one of His own. But I think  
now that Jesus must have taken comfort in the eleven who  
remained with Him; though they would flee His side in the  
Passion, He surely knew they would give their lives after  
His resurrection and ascension into heaven.

And today I am pleased to spend time with my ('adopted')  
sister, whose birthday was also a few days ago, and to speak  
with a good brother on the phone. (We are not alone.)

O Lord, as temptations enter in during these dark days,  
may we cast them aside and stand strong with you.  
Through the darkness of death, bring us to Light.

## April 4

I have betrayed the Lord.  
I would have thought it impossible. "Not me, Lord.  
Not as strong as I have become." But I have sinned.  
I have been seduced, and I have betrayed the Lord...  
I have left Him alone.

And so, bitterly I weep. In desperation I call upon  
His Name to free me of this sin: "Let it never be again!"  
But the darkness is already upon Him.

And the darkness is upon me, as my illness grows.  
But a wonderful ceremony tonight at Mass - O the blessed  
humility and grace of Holy Thursday and the institution  
of the sacrament of the Eucharist.

And I received a special blessing in having my feet washed  
by the pastor, as one of the twelve apostles. An absolutely  
blessed spirit of humbleness filled us, and filled the  
church this night.

O Lord, may I remain so humble.  
May I imitate you, O servant King.  
Let all Christians remember their call.  
(And thank you for the sacrament of your body and blood,  
and holy Confession.)



## April 5

Good Friday. Another very special day.  
And today the Lord does die. Today He is killed  
by the hands of men.

And stepping into a bare church this day, one could sense  
the mourning presence, and know the fragrance of this  
sacrifice which has made us whole. And another sacred  
celebration had we, commemorating the death of our Lord.  
(I don't recall ever feeling so clearly the solemnity of  
these feast days.)

And today, though ill, and though it was raining, I drove  
off to the cemetery. It began to rain hard during my drive,  
but as I arrived at the cemetery, the rain subsided, and  
stopped. As I was leaving, the sun began to show itself,  
and vapor rose from the road.  
("Happy Easter, Lynn." "Happy Easter, dummy.")

Smile, for the Lord has died for you.

I offer my life to you, Dear Lord,  
and pray it may be joined to your sacrifice.

Blood of Christ, be with us.

## April 6

This is Holy Saturday, but having come from the Easter Vigil, I am quite filled with the resurrection Spirit.

We had a Mass tonight which became charismatic, as our priest exhorted us to 'Alleluias' and praise at its conclusion. (He spoke very inspired on the resurrection in his homily as well.) And so - Hallelujah! He is risen.

Another quite marvelous sense of the resurrection and the mysteries of the rosary came to me as I fulfilled my first Saturday devotion in church today - have now completed three of five consecutive Saturdays. The Lord has indeed conquered this world. His agony and crucifixion, as horrible as they were, are now as nothing in His living with the Father... upon whom His sights were always set.

But one chastisement did come today. After making it well through ceremonies of previous days, without so much as a stifled sneeze, it looked as though the Lord would bless me thoroughly. But in tonight's seventh reading, Ezekiel cut me to the quick in speaking of defiling oneself with the impure woman - and a coughing attack was upon me. (Though I did, barely, survive humiliation - the Lord brought light out of the darkness.)

Praise you, Lord, for your holy grace.  
May we come to see your holy face.

## April 7

Resurrection Sunday - though it does seem somewhat anticlimactic after last night's two-hour celebration.

And with the clocks being set forward an hour, attendance at eight o'clock Mass was light today. And it rained (and even snowed) all day today, so there has been a certain darkness upon the day.

I have been alone all day, resting, and my reading of Daniel has cast a certain light on the day: though it is Easter and a day for celebration, perhaps the end times are closer than we see.

And there is certain trepidation in my soul about the end of a Lent that has been particularly beneficial to my soul. The fact that my sickness has caused my practices to suffer some of late only adds to the question as to the future of these disciplines. But I realize I must see this not as the end of Lent, but as the beginning of a glorious Easter Season. And I pray I may continue in the Lord's light.

O Lord, bless my life with your wisdom and light.  
Keep my soul from the temptations of this world.  
Set my feet on the path to you.  
Continue to arise in my heart.

## **April 8**

A real sense of peace to this day - as if the Easter Season *has* begun, as if the Word does now go forth.

Told that today is a holiday in Italy - a little Easter - on which the people celebrate with picnics. The glory of the light does shine forth so today...

A new time is dawning. A threshold is crossed.  
New life is come. And I am not at all tired.  
And my practices continue.

Hallelujah, and praise the Lord.

Let your Word go forth to the ends of the earth, O Lord.  
Let your servants speak freely of your Name.  
May the earth be filled with knowledge of you.  
Breathe your holy peace upon us.

## April 9

Though I had a poor night's sleep, the Lord strengthened me to complete my work today: He revived the Word within me.

Poetry and politics in the air today. At school, much talk about student elections and other city elections... and late this afternoon I had the opportunity to read at a poetry reading at other college. (Read passage about the morning I found my cat and "Remaining in the Garden.") But Christ is neither of these - He is the risen Son of God whose kingdom is heaven.

(Strange weather continues. Blizzard-like snow with no accumulation - and even now I hear thunder... the winter is eternal. It is as if spring will never come.)

O Lord, may we be ready for your terrible day;  
may we stand unharmed.  
Bring us back into your presence to stay;  
may we be with you always.

## April 10

Wisdom, why are you hid from me?  
Where is thy holy protection and guidance?  
Why has my flesh become so weak?

And toward sin I lean once again;  
away from the light do I turn my eyes,  
and so am in desperate need of healing.

My practice of weekly confession having trailed off with the departure of our Colombian priest, I struggle to rediscover the way of penance. And backslidden have I become.

I must move closer to the resurrection glory of Jesus.  
I must hear His words as He opens the scriptures and wisdom to me, and my body must become a temple of the Spirit in reception of the Eucharist. Jesus must be the center of my life; my life must revolve around Jesus.

O Lord, may wisdom return to me.  
May from sin I be set free.  
Please let me stand and walk with thee.

## April 11

Seems to be a week of doubt and overcoming doubt, and coming to know the resurrection of Christ - that He stands before us and reveals unto us His risen state, that He has indeed conquered the grave.

And we must be born again; we must become as babes in the arms of Jesus. He must carry us to heaven.

Turning from temptation only will find us so clean and new.

Listen to the children play.  
Sing your heart and soul today.  
And you will be free.

O Lord, come back to me in full strength.  
Open my eyes to your presence before me.  
Feed me with the grace of your Word.

## April 12

Struggling all week to overcome a temptation I thought was gone, a seduction to sensuality I thought I'd conquered - today I believe I am emptied of this sin. Wishing I'd never done it, I find forgiveness from the compassionate living God. And I believe my sin is gone.

And my sister's friend who still lives next door to our childhood house was emptying his pool today - and just so am I emptied of my sin.

And Jesus stands as the ensign of new life,  
and His angels guard and protect my way -  
preventing sin from entering in.

O Lord, forgive my labored prayers,  
which have lacked sincerity of spirit.

May I indeed be renewed now in your grace.  
Make real the overcoming of sin in me.  
Let my heart be set on your kingdom;  
may I be in tune with your ways.



## April 13

Cleansing of confession, forgiveness from the Lord,  
brings great joy and freedom this day.

Enjoyed several recreational activities with my friend  
and his nephews - bowling, wiffle ball, darts -  
and so was blessed with companionship.

And my prayers of this morning were answered throughout the  
day, as the Lord and His angels continually watched over me.  
Particularly felt this blessing at the soup kitchen -  
at one point, I had no more than begun to consider an  
earlier conversation about how to help people with  
employment than a parishioner mentioned a need for workers.

Praise God!

Thank you, Jesus, for hearing my prayers  
and restoring my faith by being so faithful to me.

May I remain ever in your joy  
and praise you even in the trying times -  
for even in chastisement is your love and blessing.

## April 14

Priestly functions. We are all called to the priesthood of Christ - serving the Lord in one another, especially the least of our brothers.

This morning the priest was very late for Mass (half an hour), and someone joked about my putting on a robe... And this afternoon I felt more like a priest than ever I have, leading a communion service at a nursing home.

Jesus breathes on the apostles and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." And what a blessed sense of peace I felt upon returning from service at the home... And my doubt seems to have flown away, as once again I stand in faith. The trials of the past week act as purgatorial fires for my soul.

O Lord, thank you for your blessing of serving the poor in spirit,  
for I indeed reap the greater reward.

Hallelujah.

## April 15

And today it was my turn to oversleep; and I was a half-hour late for my prayer before Mass. (I had also allowed the door to be opened upon leaving the prayer meeting last night - as I was informed by our priest. I had locked it, but it didn't catch.)

I continue to struggle with thoughts and considerations of women in my life and the possibility of a wife... Still not set in order again with regard to some of my practices - breaking down, excuse-making, tiredness (must find the peace of new birth). The weakness, the laziness should be rooted out, but I seem to lack conviction.

I know I am a sinner; I know Jesus is my Savior; and He is there when I call upon Him - but I find myself failing to call on His Name and power.

O Lord, rectify my life.  
Set it right, somehow, in your light.  
In sin let me take no delight.

## April 16

A day for mourning, and for weeping.

Awoke during the night to the sound of rain and violent wind. Was seized by a mortal fear as I sensed the judgment of the Lord very near. I prayed that if the Lord should bring me to death and condemnation, let it be so - but I pleaded that no one else be brought low because of any of my actions... and so my fears were alleviated, and I found rest.

And stepping into church this morning, I discovered a leak in the ceiling; near the lectern a puddle of water had gathered. (It rained night and day.) Found a strong sense that the end is nigh, and interceded that the roof might not fall in on humanity. (The end *is* near. The end is here.)

Spent the day taking great pains to channel sinfulness out of myself. The sun came out in the evening. (I did not expect to see any light today at all.)

O Lord, so many are lost, and I am one.  
Please, may I be prepared, somehow, for your coming.  
I know less than Nicodemus, Lord; open my eyes.

## April 17

"And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

John 3:19

And this *is* the judgment, this is condemnation in itself: to turn away from what is good, and prefer what is evil... to fear to come into the light, "lest his deeds be exposed."

Jesus teaches us truth; and the light goes forth. Walls and prisons cannot keep the Word of God from going forth, but the human heart *can* shut it out.

And passionless as a game of chess, the wickedness of this evil generation goes on. And murder can pass for science and compassion. And the taking of life from the sanctity of a mother's womb is "cleanly" accomplished by the vacuum of our human heart.

Men prefer the darkness.

O Lord, praise you for your clear word of truth,  
for your blessed teaching.  
May its light strike the minds of all those in darkness.

## April 18

The Spirit is upon me, and I have something to say today.

This afternoon, after speaking with the college's media arts person about the dance I'd written for video, I found myself watching my shadow before me as I walked from the school. And I remembered a friend's vehement warning about not stepping on your shadow, which he'd offered when I was seeking to tell my love of my feelings some ten or twelve years ago...

While still at school I sensed the possibility of two shadows for my life; this evening I spoke at length on the phone to a woman I had some time before conjectured as a shadow -

Then tonight I watched the deceit and folly of what is called 'love' poignantly portrayed in a TV film. And I realized that in this world where the spirit of fornication rules, where women are given and taken in marriage, where lust has become so wrought into the society that it has become 'normal' - love, true love, is not possible.

And this revelation leaves me with no bitterness, no sense of "I am good, and no one else is" (for my mere entertainment of 'possibilities' shows me to be part of this society) - it grants me only light, only the wisdom I prayed for before the statue of Mother Seton this morning. (And the words of St. Paul ring true,)

Thank you, Lord, for the freedom which comes from truth. May I indeed be as a saint consecrated to you. May my eyes be ever open.

## April 19

A good friend and brother in Christ, our former charismatic prayer leader, was beginning a new group at his new church down the shore - so a few of us traveled the Turnpike and Parkway to support him.

As the Lord multiplied the fish in today's gospel, so he multiplied the people at the meeting. I was expecting few people to come for this first gathering, but over twenty people attended, many distinctly gifted with the charisms and very mature in the Spirit. (Praise the Lord!)

It seems God is greatly blessing my brother. If He is, it shall flourish. If it is of human origin, it shall die.

All is in God's hands.

Amen.

O Lord, your miracles are a marvel to behold.  
So far are your ways above our own.

## April 20

In the gospel, Jesus overcomes even the elements of nature as He walks on the stormy sea. (The Lord indeed has supernatural power; miracles are with Him.) And the night before we overcame a long ride to and from the shore with a blown muffler, coming home late in the night with repeated tales of horrible accidents in my ear.

And tonight I helped serve at table as we had a party for the workers of the church - pot luck dinner, music, some dancing... It was the first time I had a real sense of community in the church, with children and teens and adults all celebrating together.

(The day was particularly busy and service strong at the soup kitchen as well.)

Praise you, Lord, for the joy of parish family.  
Watch over us always as we come to the shore  
where you are.



## April 21

Jesus has conquered death;  
He will not abandon our souls to the nether world.

There is no need to fear - be strong and rejoice.  
Praise the Lord with tambourine and ten-string lyre...  
play your guitar and sing to the Lord.  
Be not ashamed of rejoicing in the Lord.

If we are stouthearted, we will overcome;  
and wisdom will come and instruct us.  
Wisdom will clear our minds and give understanding.

Never leap into doubt; never succumb  
to the devices of Satan  
meant to drag your soul into darkness.

The power of the Lord is supreme and everlasting.

Reveal unto us your presence, Lord,  
that we might live ever in your Spirit.

## April 22

Stephen goes the way of Christ; subject to the same trials,  
he is as a lamb led to slaughter.

The first martyr, the first to follow Jesus, this man who  
served at table became bread of sacrifice himself - showing,  
too, that man does not live by bread alone, but by the Bread  
of Life.

And through the fire the Lord protects all His saints,  
and brings them unscathed in His presence.

O Lord, help us lay down our lives.  
Let us see what is required of our souls  
if we are to come to thee,  
and may we live just so.

## April 23

Jesus is indeed the bread of life, and we must also be bread of sacrifice and lay down our lives as Stephen has to find the vision of His glory.

And today I do have a sense of the Lord's heavenly glory as I offer myself as a living sacrifice to God. I find myself so pure; though the world does burn like an oven, I am unaffected by the temptations and come out purified.

It was hot as a midsummer day today, and the air conditioning failed at work, but taking refuge in the Lord, I did indeed have a strong sense of purity and protection.

O Lord, thank you for your faithfulness to our prayers.  
Do take our lives as a living sacrifice,  
that our vision of you may be true and complete.

## April 24

Those who die with Him shall also live with Him,  
for He is the resurrection and the life,  
and in Him His disciples have eternal life.

Heart to heart I speak with Him today before His Blessed  
Sacrament. Clearly He assures me of His presence.  
And His angels and saints are not far from us;  
the heavenly gates are in our midst.

Up from the ground spring flowers of righteousness,  
watered by His redeeming rain. And the sun shines  
down upon them, bringing them to glorious grace.

Lord, let your peace reign here in our hearts;  
let your flowers bloom.  
Let all that is come to life again.

## April 25

Humbling ourselves under the hand of God, we find transcendence of this life, for humility makes us whole.

And what are we? We are nothing. Truly, we have no power. What should we make of ourselves? How silly it is to be proud - we mere, flawed humans. Next to Christ what are we? (He is all-powerful, and only in giving our lives to Him do we find ourselves at all.)

And I am on my knees today as I scrub my bathtub. And today I sense the exaltation that comes from absolute humility.

O Lord, thank you for keeping pride from me;  
from it please keep me free...  
for as I lose myself in you,  
as I sacrifice my life in all humility -  
in such sincerity I am made whole,  
and I dwell with you.

## April 26

It is, of course, spiritual blindness from which St. Paul is saved, of which he is cured - blindness to Jesus as the Son of God.

And how many are blind to the presence of Jesus even today - blind to His presence in the Eucharist, blind to His presence in their lives... blind to His presence as Savior.

And I myself walk blindly through my day. Busy with the details of the day, I develop a headache which oppresses me and weakens my reverence of Christ.

We are all of us blind. We are all of us dependent upon Him to make it through each day: we all must be led by the arm by the messenger of the Lord.

Do not leave my side, dear Lord, for how shall I survive.  
Guide me through the twists and turns my day takes,  
or else I shall get lost.  
Open my eyes that they might ever see you.

## April 27

Priests are conferred with special gifts from the Spirit in the Name of the Lord. These blessings transform their lives, even as the bread and wine they consecrate are transformed into the body and blood of Christ.

And Peter, the first priest, the father of all priests, is the prime example of the transforming power of the Spirit. For here we find a man, once headstrong and of relative ignorance, now performing the works of Christ with the power of Jesus Himself - even healing the sick and raising the dead.

In addition to the greatest gift of consecration, priests are also blessed (as first was Peter) with the power to forgive men's sins. This is a comparably awesome grace about which I, as a penitent, am only just becoming aware.

And even I, though never approaching the ordained priesthood, as a common priest of Christ experience the transforming power of the Spirit in my life, as the Lord graces me with the gift of helping those in need.

O Lord, continue to reveal unto your child  
your way of truth and life.  
Lead all men to the promised salvation.

## April 28

It seemed most appropriate on Good Shepherd Sunday that I should attend the First Communion of my cousin's daughter: here is a poignant example of Jesus, the Bread of Life, calling His innocent sheep to pasture.

But today for me, and especially tonight, my life was marked by lack of shepherding from the Lord. I raced down the shore for the Communion (which did not go badly), then I had to race home for a concert in the church tonight. I performed two songs, neither of which was well-practiced. (I don't understand why I should be so composed in my writing and so lacking in composition in my musical performance. It leads me to question whether I should even be doing so.)

This freneticism lingers even now as I write this; my excited soul continues unsettled.

Lord, take me in your Hand.  
If I should not perform, let me do so no more;  
or else polish my performance like gold given you.

Guard my soul always, Lord.  
Praise you.



## April 29

I cannot deny it: "I am a sinner."

And because this is the feast of St. Catherine of Sienna, we hear today from 1 John as he speaks of the importance of acknowledging our sinfulness before God - lest we make Him a liar.

Yes, Jesus has died for our sins, for our redemption from sin - yet the question comes as to how He could continue to love someone who is sometimes as unfaithful to Him as I am. Catherine seems to have been so deeply committed in her marriage to Christ; she I can see Him loving... but how me? And how is it He continues to bless my writing?

O Lord, remove me not from thy presence.  
Cast me not aside when my life is done.  
Forgive the sinfulness that is in my soul.  
Shepherd me into your one fold.  
Increase my love for you.

## **April 30**

All Christians are in the hand of God,  
and all who believe in Jesus, the Son of God,  
are Christian. (And they shall have life eternal.)

Today we see beginnings of the formation of the Church,  
as it organizes in Antioch under the auspices of Paul and  
Barnabas. And now I may attend daily Mass and partake of  
the sacraments. (The Church exists in history as well as  
eternity.)

Bless my soul, O Lord, hold it in your hands.  
Shepherd and guide it with your love.  
It is an offering unto you.

## May 1

Before the Blessed Sacrament this morning I am quite overcome with thoughts, with remembrances, of the quintessential importance of innocence in the life of a Christian, in my life. Innocence is as the umbilical cord which connects us directly to God and His Light. In innocence there is no question or doubt. In innocence is the truth of the presence of God. And all else we are and do - all our love, peace, strength, and wisdom - must have this innocence at its heart.

And on this feast day of St. Joseph the Worker, I am also reminded of my own greatest work, my special gift from God - *Songs for Children of Light* - and prompted to thoughts of the philosophy behind it and to the continuance of attention to it, despite any doubt about it that may come upon me.

I relate this doubt to the status of the Book of 2 Esdras, which again in reading I find particular affinity. Here is a concise and blessed record by an exceptionally holy man - and it is not accepted as canonical by the Church. Here is prophecy of Christ, answer to theological question, and clear history, all beautifully inspired by the Spirit... and not accepted - why?

O Lord, let us do the work you set before us.  
Nourish us always by your Spirit,  
and may our innocence always keep us one with you.  
Let us speak all and only what you tell us.

## May 2

I am sent to tell you this:

"Jesus Christ is the only Son of God.  
He has died for your sins.  
Believe in Him  
and you will come to the Father."

(I thought to say this to two Mormons today,  
but they were too far away.)

And my hands become like bread  
as I kneel before the Blessed Sacrament,  
and as I speak with you.

Come, Lord Jesus, fill us with your Word;  
let us bring it to the ends of the earth.

## May 3

Have you seen Jesus? Do you know Jesus?

Jesus has risen from the dead and sits now at the right hand of the Father. Do you know this? Do you believe this? If you believe then you will see. He will be at work in your life, and you will share in His life.

Today, this morning at Mass, such a clear sense, a clear vision of Jesus having risen as I listen to the first reading from Paul of those who witnessed the risen Christ. It was as if He was before me. And later I felt the readiness of giving all to Him, of caring for nothing of this life - for such a powerful intercessor will always take care.

Though it is dark and rainy, I do find joy this day;  
and as I begin my reading of the New Testament,  
the Spirit breathes in the words.

O Lord, if we had but faith...  
we would know you  
and all would be possible -  
fulfill our vision of you, O Lord;  
let us do your will.

## May 4

Today is a day of sorrow: crying in church while preparing a holy hour devotion for tomorrow - practicing songs and readings on life and against abortion... and then tempted to despair and confusion in presence of mother carrying an illegitimate child and learning of second illegitimate pregnancy of friend's niece...

Today is a day of joy: our parish priest passes by in a car sounding a party favor... and the Lord blesses my first Saturday devotion.

And so, in the reading, the disciples are filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit though cast from the city limits... I only pray the Lord so bless my work.

Let thy light settle in with us, dear Lord.  
Let me be one with you, only Son,  
that thy will may be done  
and we may rise with thee.

## May 5

As the Father is, so is Jesus.  
And if we follow in His steps,  
we will come to the Father's house.

Mother's birthday today,  
and there are babies throughout the day.

And today a holy hour in the church for Life. The Lord watched over my playing and reading, and taught me much on humility and the way of grace. I wondered how blessed the prayers were, but upon returning home, I found myself as if floating on a cloud of peace, in communication with Jesus.

The Lord did show me that it can be treacherous to present yourself before others, and pride is not easily mastered, but somehow the greatest wisdom I received was the clear sense of what it is to be human - perhaps by contrast to the inhumanity of abortion. We are not angels; we are certainly not God... we are less than this and without judgment - but in strength we have our parts to play in this frame.

May we reflect in strength your Son, O LORD and God.  
May you watch over all that in our lives is done.

## May 6

This morning, a brother who stops by to pray with me before the Blessed Sacrament wore the harness he needs for work (which includes heavy lifting). This made me think, and realize that I need similar restraint for my head and eyes to keep my vision straight and my path strait. I need to be kept from looking to the right or to the left. How else can I expect to be worthy of the Lord's love?

O Lord, you alone are worthy of my love.  
You alone have the words of the kingdom,  
the Word of life.

Let me not be distracted from you who are above all.  
Let me set my heart firmly on you.



## May 7

Held my friend's (and little brother's) baby today.  
I had never held a baby for so long...  
She fell asleep in my arms.

(And thoughts of marriage pervade my day.)

Preparing to depart for Florida tomorrow morning.  
May peace be with those I leave behind,  
and the Lord bless my journey...

Make straight my way, dear Lord.  
Let thy wisdom and guidance be upon me.  
Bring us the light of a new tomorrow.

## May 8

A day of travel, of sojourning...

I attend early Mass at another church and then drive down the Turnpike and I-95 some eleven hours with but two brief stops - ending in South Carolina. My hands and feet ache as I lay in my motel room.

The drive is uneventful (though clear) except that when at one point I become fatigued in mid-afternoon, I begin to follow a large dark brown trailer closely, as a pace car. And it goes at perfect speed, and drives so carefully, and strongly... and I am as tied to its back, and, so, freed from concern and weariness - and so I finish my trip well. The color of the truck reminded me of the wood of the cross. (He is the vine; we are the branches.)

Remain with us always, Lord.  
Let us live in you.

## May 9

"That your joy may be complete."

Completion of my journey a rather purgatorial fire, as I pray the Lord to cover the Southern sun with clouds in my drive with a panting cat in an air-conditionless car... but this evening He turns my sorrow to joy.

I arrive safely and see my parents and brother - and am in time to make evening Mass at a local church. Upon arriving at the church grounds, I meet and speak with the priest. Upon entering the church, I find they have adoration every weekday. During the Mass (which I offer in penance for my sins). I feel the love of the Lord smile upon me, reassuring me of the good that awaits me - angels' hands upon me, lifting me... And after Mass there is a special vespers service with exposition.

Driving home, I see before me a sky as black as I've ever known - but I am not afraid... only in wonder. And it rains hard - but only shortly.

Joy shall overcome all and any sorrow.

Thank you, Lord, for delivering me safely.  
May in your arms I ever be.

## May 10

Scriptures speak of love, and Jesus' trust in us to do His will. Priest emphasizes that love leads to obedience.

And before the (exposed) Blessed Sacrament I am nearly overwhelmed. I felt I could have remained there in prayer all day.

However, the day was marked mostly by rest and recovery from travel.

O Lord, do let me give myself entirely to your will.  
Forgive my falling short of thy glory.  
May your love indeed permeate my life.  
Make me your friend and disciple.

## May 11

Attended Mass this morning at a different church, a more modern one I had judged in myself to be less devout for the money spent on it and the style it embraced. But we should not judge by appearances; a blessed Mass it was.

The priest had the singular habit of rocking lightly back and forth, and at the same time his unevenly outstretched arms would move up and down slightly and sometimes in small circles... this made him seem as if he were flying or floating in air.

This vision complemented my own sense of floating off the ground, which I derived from standing on the carpeted floor that was sloped forward, but mostly from the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

The trials can be great in this life and the disciplines severe - but oh the joys and blessings the Lord bestows upon His children.

Holy Spirit, direct me always.  
Let me never hesitate to suffer for the Word.  
I would remain ever in the peace of your presence.

## May 12

And the statue in the garden of yesterday's church, which was set in the seclusion of green fields, was of a resurrected and ascending Jesus, whose body was the wrap of shroud (with much space between the layers) - only wounded hands and feet and head were real... granting thus a marvelous spiritual sense of transcendence.

Today it is Mother's Day. And though I honor my mother (and father) and love my brother, I hear what Jesus said: "Those who do the will of my Father are my brothers and sisters and mother." And I know that these, too, are my brothers and that Mary is indeed my mother. And I pray for Mary's intercession in my life and hope that I may know the Spirit as she has, and that the Spirit may indeed always be with me to guide me as I remain brother to Jesus, Son of Mary, Son of God.

Lord, send us your Spirit to bless and guide.  
Take our very lives.  
Mother Mary, please pray for us always,  
that the Spirit may safeguard your children.  
Hallelujah!

## May 13

Continuing my stay at my parent's house (for another week), there is a sense of peace and wholesomeness, but there are also gluttonous and lazy tendencies. I can but pray the Lord's will be done in all.

It is not with ease I have no work, but the Lord sustains me with reading, writing, music, and prayer before the (exposed) Blessed Sacrament. I only pray a purity may be strengthened in me; and I pray for blessings of God upon my family.

Order my day, dear Lord,  
    though from my home I be far away.  
Bless this time, dear God,  
    and let fruit be born of which I know not.

## May 14

Love one another,  
And, lay down your lives for one another.

Love one another,  
And, lay down your lives for one another.

Love one another,  
And, lay down your lives for one another.

This should be our mantra. This should be our prayer.

A monk instructs on the importance of meditation for the deepening of faith... And on this the feast of St. Matthias, we are all called to obedience of Jesus' words, and to truly live as disciples of Christ.

(Note: The Lord's hand moves in my life today. The time I felt most sent by God was ten years ago when I came to Florida with nothing but the clothes on my back (and even these became minimized). This was at the time the Lord first revealed to me the significance of the tetragrammaton - the silent WORD (YHWH). During that sojourn, I came principally to the church in which the monk spoke tonight, to convey this realization to the priests. (I also was at campus today, where I spent most of my time during this journey - today I considered much these 'apostolic' actions and sought obedience before the Blessed Sacrament.) After his presentation, I gave the priest and monk a copy of my most recent teaching on the Name of God.)

O Lord, may we take our place among the saints in eternal life.  
May we accomplish the work to which we are called.  
Fill your children with your love.



## May 15

In consideration of the call of the Lord...  
What is the Lord's will for us?

The Lord tells us in the gospel today that He has much to say, when we are ready. I only pray I shall be listening, that I shall be seeking, and that I shall be abiding in Him and allowing the Spirit of Truth to guide me day to day.

It is sometimes difficult to know where the Lord is leading us, if we are following His word, or our own...  
And so we must pray the Spirit of Truth be with us.

O Lord, let thy will be done in my life.  
Make me amenable to your Word.  
Take all anxiety from me  
and let me follow thee closely.

## May 16

Ascension Thursday.

Priest makes it clear that the key word of the gospel is not "up" (referring to Jesus' ascending) but "out" (referring to where we ought to be going). He strongly makes the point that, as the gospel says, we should not be standing around looking up and wondering when Jesus will return, but we should turn our attention outward to our fellow man, where we will find Jesus *is*.

For my part this day, while at Epcot I think to pray for all those many people around me on a couple of occasions. It seems I used to be better able to see and feel all people as my brothers and sisters in the past, but it was good to recollect this sense and pray Jesus' blood upon all today. (Also found myself writing on the car ride up with my parents.)

Another curious incident: as I was leaving the church this morning and blessing myself with holy water, a man reached out his hand to me. It took a moment for me to realize he had neglected to bless himself and was seeking water from my fingers, but it was an unusually remarkable symbolic example of passing on the blessing of Christ.

Bless us, O Lord.  
Bless all with thy blood and water.  
Come make us one in your name.

## May 17

We do suffer pain and sorrow as we struggle to conquer sin and the darkness of all around us.

I weep today for my selfishness and blindness which keeps me from Jesus and the removal of my sin, and I cry, too, for the weakness of so many who know not what they do to destroy life and justice and peace.

I offer my life today before the Blessed Sacrament, expressing willingness to accept whatever the Lord deigns for my life - if it is to be married and if to have children, or if to remain single or consecrated in religious life... However the Lord may lead me, I offer openness to His Word and the putting aside of whatever fear or stubbornness keeps me from wholeheartedly following Him, knowing that whatever pain may come, whatever suffering, will indeed be changed to joy - for in Him all is joy.

Take my life, Lord.

Be with us.

Watch over us as we enter into communion with you.

Cleanse us from all sin.

## May 18

Oh what power we have if we abide in the way of God.  
We become as His children, even as Jesus His Son;  
and from His children, the Father hears all prayers.

But what responsibility we have, too, to be instructed  
properly in the way and to use our gifts to the best  
of our ability.

Pray, and believe - and let the Spirit lead thee.

In all our hearts is a love for God and a desire to praise  
Him. May we step out in that faith and properly bring  
the kingdom forth. (For this is a must for us.)

A man greets and speaks to me after Mass this morning.  
I praise the Lord, working on my songs, and find time to  
write. I spend time with my family. But most of all I  
know the call to intercede for those in need. Anyone you  
see is open for the grace of your prayers. (Pray for  
them.)

O Lord, I pray we find the faith and instruction  
to believe in what we ask for  
and to ask in clarity.

O Blessed Mother, intercede for we who seek the Lord,  
that our prayer may well be righteous.

## May 19

We gather in this place, together to pray.  
We step forth into the world, together in His Name.  
And He watches over us always, from the right hand of God.  
And by the Spirit He blesses us, leading us to eternal life.

And suffer we do now, as His Body.  
Suffer we must the whips and scorns of time.  
Patiently must we endure,  
    while walking through this dark night.

I cannot say how long I shall live;  
    I can only be ready for His coming.  
I know that He is present with me,  
    so long as I remain pure.

And closer He comes, day to day,  
    as I am confirmed in purity.  
And far from me He removes my sin,  
    as I pray and repent of what is within.

Oh Lord, I long to praise your name.  
I long to join with my brothers and sisters  
    and live my life with you.  
May I never lose sight of thy holy throne.

## May 20

I awaken this morning gasping at the potential violence in my dream. This nightmare speaks to me of my unforgiveness. It tells me of the judgment and condemnation in my heart, of the constant anxiety.

I pray intently before Jesus for forgiveness, for salvation of souls... but nonetheless find myself in darkness today, my tongue cleaving to the roof of my mouth and my head heavy as lead. And there is no joy.

I offer the pain for the remission of sins, and manage to grope through the afternoon.

There is much courage needed to be taken to overcome the darkness which besets us, which is sometimes all around us, and bear through unto the light.

Come, Holy Spirit, and lead us forth  
through the maze of this dark world  
of human emotion and indignity -  
may we find our humanity  
and eternity  
in the gifts you bring us.

## May 21

Today I, too, prepare to depart. It is the last day of my journey to Florida, and I must now ready myself for leaving.

I thank the Lord that He has blessed me and my family, that He has heard my prayers - and as I leave I do pray for those I leave behind (for one can only be in one place at a time), and I ask that He forgive and fill up any shortcomings of my trip.

As I prepare to leave, I am sad as usual about not seeing my parents or brother... but now I have a sense I rarely find - a sense of 'fear' about when I will see them again. I suppose it is only doubt and will pass.

But I also find a deeper faith about the nature of life and the vincibility of death: fear of death does depart and belief in life eternal becomes more real.

O Lord, do watch over my family - save their souls.  
And please watch over me as I travel,  
and let me draw closer to you.

## May 22

I find my life unconsciously tied to the daily readings...

In this morning's first reading the people of Ephesus weep as they bid farewell to Paul; my parents weep as they say good-bye to me, seeing me off at my car...

The Word is becoming part of me.

Several practices suffered some during my stay with my parents, but not daily Mass (and not my fast). Mostly just a bit too much of the media, which should be easily filtered out. ( A practice I have not yet founded and which I continue to question is sleeping six hours a night...)

And another eleven hour drive today.  
Uneventful but for the sadness in my own heart.

O Lord, that we might all be one in you.  
That you could bring together and save the souls  
of all the people in my life.  
O that the angels might watch over us all  
and bring us to the kingdom.



## May 23

One and not one.

Jesus prays we may be one with Him as He is one with the Father, and the Holy Spirit makes us so - all are one in God.

Paul plays on the division of his accusers - their lack of oneness - to defeat their vain persecutions (and to make his point of apostleship: i.e. Jesus' resurrection). That which is divided against itself cannot stand.

After an exhilarating ride home and the blessing of holy Mass, spoke with a number of brothers and sisters who seemed to come from everywhere outside the church on this beautiful evening. I felt renewed and alive from my vacation and had an unbreakable unity with everyone.

Also spoke, in my exhilaration, with two Mormons, calling them over as several of us stood around talking... The only clear point we seemed to reach of our differences was their lack of belief in the unity of the Three Persons of the Trinity. (We are supposed to talk again tomorrow.)

O Lord, I thank you for this evangelical spirit;  
always give me a mouth and wisdom.  
And let nothing break the unity of your children  
and you.

## May 24

Paul was imprisoned and Peter crucified, but by it all the Word went forth - and that is what matters.

The word goes out each day; the lambs are fed and Jesus is with us till the end of the age. The Spirit witnesses to His presence among us.

I feel sorrow for those who can be so deluded into thinking the apostles carried the Word, then it died until the 1800's in America. Such is the plight of the Mormons.

O Lord, open the eyes of those so blinded by deceit  
or the illusion of lies.  
Lead us forth to walk in your truth each day,  
bringing your kingdom to the ends of the earth.  
Holy Spirit, be with us, as the earth is evangelized  
by your power.

## May 25

The Church is formed - Peter is called by the Lord.  
The Church is formed - Paul preaches the Word from Rome.  
And John gives account of the marvelous deeds of Christ.

And today in the soup kitchen a wonderful volunteeristic spirit abounds, in the workers, but also in the patrons. And it refreshes my tested spirit, and shows me that the Lord will out.

And though a friend seems to have stumbled in sin, I do not fear; I know that through all the word goes forth - it cannot be stopped; it is not hindered. Those who hear it will be saved, and those who do not will not.

Invariably through time the kingdom grows  
and shall soon be here.

O Lord, guide your flock into your fold.  
Let them know now your loving touch  
which sustains them through all suffering.

## May 26

On the way to church this morning witnessed three birds fighting one with another in the middle of the street.

There was a darkness upon the day; it did not feel much like Pentecost Sunday. The priest spoke of the divisions in the Church, and I have been tired and sick in my stomach all day (perhaps the result of my long journey). There have been several difficulties I've faced just in the past few days.

But there was a moment at tonight's prayer meeting, after our sharing Bible readings, when the few of us stood in a silent circle for a short time - then I sensed the Spirit's presence.

O Lord, come and renew your troubled Church.  
Yes, Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth.  
Make us ready for your presence.  
Maranatha!

## May 27

Some more suffering today, but hope in the Lord is sure.

Cannot help but consider today's gospel as I prepare a couple of more sets of writings for copyrighting and practice another album of songs... Are these somehow riches I must give up?

And last night someone read from Ecclesiastes the preacher's warning that there is no end to the making of books. And the priest today warns against getting too wrapped up in yourself.

O Lord, all I have I give to you.  
Take my gift and my life, I pray,  
    and let thy will be done.  
I wish only to pass into your kingdom.

## May 28

There is a saying: "The child is the father of the man."  
It is by the child the father is known, for by definition  
a father is not a father without a child.

And so Christ has said, "I am in the Father, and the  
Father is in me," and "if you have seen me, you have  
seen the Father." For Jesus, as the true Son, is the  
true reflection of the Father.

It occurs to me also that the Father needs the Son, or,  
again, the Father is not a Father. As the artist is known  
in his work, so the Creator is known in His Creation. And  
Jesus shows us how great the Creator is.

And we, too, should be holy as Jesus is holy, as the  
Father is holy. If we say we are sons of God, children  
of Light, God, the Father, should be seen in us; we should  
live as His children. If a man is a son of God, it will  
be shown in his life.

And walking home from church this morning, I feel the  
light shine in me. And looking at the clouds today, I  
know the glory of God in His creation and the great  
calling man has as the image and likeness of God, with  
power over all these things.

O Lord, may thy glory shine in us  
that thou might be revealed.  
May we be holy even as thou art holy  
and live our lives only for thee.  
Make us your children of light.

## May 29

The servant King is Jesus.  
(Such is the way of God.)

When I tell the maintenance man I will clean the [soup kitchen] refrigerator he placed in the alley for its purported uncleanliness, he seems surprised and questions whether I have someone to do that. (I am, after all, the director.)

Also, the Lord confirms that I shall not suffer a martyr's death, that I am not a Saint, as such. But a regular saint am I. I am saddened to see that the stories of the saints will remain stories to me, that they will be well beyond my reach - but the Lord's will is all-important... and so I am satisfied with the lower echelon, as God wills.

Lord, let thy will be done.  
Let me but take the place set aside for me  
since before the world.  
As you ordain it.

## May 30

We are living stones of the living Church of Christ.

Tonight was honored to attend dedication Mass of Sacred Heart Cathedral as a Minor Basilica - a glorious event in a glorious church (a glimpse of heaven). Bishop began his homily speaking of the tremendous foundation needed for such a structure (leading of course to the foundation which is Christ). Earlier in the day I recall looking at a large empty lot where a factory had recently been torn down and wondering about the foundation for a new building - when it would be laid, how the rain we'd had would affect the strength of the ground, etc.

Re the gospel: cried as hard as I have in a while for the sin of impurity and confusion which I so blindly enter into... Did manage to find peace and clarity of mind. (The Lord heals those who cry unto Him in truth.)

"I would I lived in a purer age," I think, as I look upon the Sisters of Charity of Mother Teresa a few rows in front of me. And I wish I could spend time with these saints who love Jesus so - I think it would be like dying and going to heaven. For where is heaven but where Jesus is, and where is Jesus more?

O Lord, bless your child, the Church.  
May we grow into the kingdom that is you.  
Up from a firm foundation, let us come unto you.



## May 31

The Visitation. Very appropriate.

I had said to myself this morning after Mass that today I should find opportunity to love others, to be with and give myself to others. Then forgot this.

Early in the evening I was visited again by my Mormon friends. They have many strange ideas which simply do not correspond to the Bible, but I loved them and tried to explain in chapter and verse their errors. (God is Spirit; Jesus forgives sins; the Trinity and the unity of all; the WORD, the Holy Spirit...) Before they arrived I was afraid I'd have to say I wouldn't see them again, but they said it to me in the end.

And after this evangelization was walking the streets, meeting people, including a friend I hadn't seen in a year or so, and went, on spontaneous invitation, with a friend I met to the house of her friend and family - all Spanish. The baby was the center of attention. (How God does work.)

O Lord, open our hearts to all peoples.  
Let your love breathe forth from us to everyone -  
that we may be one.

## June 1

Though I have not the authority, I am asked by my pastor to read the gospel for our Spanish-speaking priest whose English is not up to the necessary level. And I would have done so, being so asked, but the presence of a concelebrating priest (who stays at our rectory) delivered me from this duty.

I do, however, have the power of prayer, and the authority to pray. And I feel this power very strongly this morning as I finish fifth consecutive devotional first Saturday. ("Believe that ye receive, and it shall be yours.")

But how do we know the souls which must be snatched from the fire? Who are those burning in such hell? I have not the spiritual eyes to see into the soul, but am so blinded by what I see, by what is obvious before me.

O Lord, I pray for all the burning souls  
I may have conversed with  
or spent time in the company of today.  
I pray they shall be rescued from such snares.

And I pray you bless my own soul  
and keep it free from sin.  
By your power, Lord.

## June 2

The Lord will go with us. The Lord will bring His peace again to us. We shall live with Him forever in the heavenly kingdom - as one, yes, as one.

And on this Trinity Sunday I know - the blood of the Son redeems us; the Holy Spirit guides us; and we shall live as children of the Father again, for it is He who creates us.

God is with us in prayer tonight: He makes His presence known. And I make peace between friends. The Lord is at work in the lives of those who call upon Him, who call upon Him in truth. His covenant is sure.

O Lord, be with us, until the end of the age.  
Bring your peace into our lives.  
We worship you, O Lord our God;  
make us one with you.

(Trinity notes: a three-way game of wiffle ball;  
a lector team (of 2) is born today;  
multiple buds on one rose stem.)

## June 3

Only the righteous shall be found worthy of sharing in the kingdom.

Though I struggle some with holiness, the Lord does bless my work today, allowing me to serve in His vineyard.

And step by step, always so gradually, we must grow into His presence, into eternal life.

O Lord, cast me not from your garden.  
May I labor for you all my days,  
and may my work make me holy before you.

## June 4

It is an evil generation which seeks a sign.  
The Lord is present in every age;  
the Lord is present today.

Priest speaks clearly and succinctly against the chasing after of vain prophesies of the end of times, and for the having of confidence and faith of the Lord's presence within us. A poignant moment for me was his comment over the gifts: that Jesus is certainly coming, but He is also present here ("This is the Lamb of God..."). If we have Jesus with us now, we shall not fear or be anxious about His second coming; if we have Him not, we shall not stand.

And of giving to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's: continuing with the idea of my lower place in heaven and considering again marriage, I conceive a vision wherein I might care for a wife and children here, and keep my soul ready for there. It was a glimpse into the order and balance of things, and a look through all things, holding God First.

(Completed reading of Revelation and, so, of Bible today.  
It was my clearest reading of Revelation.)

O God, set our lives in holy order;  
as you ordain, let it be.  
Make us not anxious about your coming kingdom;  
please take all sin away from me.

## June 5

Rekindling the flame of discipline, I begin to breathe the freedom once more. And today I begin working with a version of the Liturgy of the Hours.

In and through some hard work today, I glean a sense of the Lord's eternal life, and my faith in the resurrection is increased by this wonder. God is the God of the living; all live to Him. And remember, no one has created Him - He has ever been. (Imagine that you shall soon live with Him, though the thought is overwhelming.)

The wisdom of the Lord is great. His chastisements are such blessing. May He ever direct us on the strait path that leads to heaven.

Thank you, Lord, for the day,  
and for that holy day when we will dwell with you eternally.  
Give us your work and your word to sustain us -  
smile upon us the light of your face.

## June 6

Re disputing about "words" (Paul's warning to Timothy): had a holy conversation with a servant of the Methodist Church this morning, and this evening attended annual meeting of group which sponsors our soup kitchen - many churches represented. God is one. (And if we as Catholics do indeed have the whole truth, our attitude toward others should be only one of love and understanding, as a mother with her children.)

But today's scriptures are really about following the word of God. Paul instructs his disciple, Timothy; the psalms sing of the joy of knowing God's commands; and Jesus gives us the greatest law. The Word of God really is summed up in love.

And I think today what it would be like to love God and neighbor so completely, and I know it would be nothing less than heaven, than life eternal. And I am filled with a joy this day as I apply myself to prayer and dedicate myself to God.

Thank you, Lord, for your Word.  
Your commands are liberating.  
May we be so filled with thy love.

## June 7

Jesus is Lord. And the Lord leaves us both Scripture and Tradition. Scripture is the Word of the Lord and, so, fit for instruction. The people, the Church, live the Word (witness Paul) and so are worthy of imitation. And both must be observed.

Flowers grow upon my sister's grave.  
The Hand of God is at work in our lives -  
glorious it is to behold.  
(We shall live with Him in truth forever.)

O Lord, bless our work and bless our prayer,  
that we might not be far from you  
who are Lord and God.



## June 8

Felt myself poured out as something of a libation today, serving at the soup kitchen and suffering unreasoned persecution. But to the end we must go with the Lord, turning the other cheek and praying for all souls, knowing in the end justice shall reign and you may help bring others to the Lord. There is a hope which sustains us through all serving and suffering.

And the two pennies put in the treasury by the poor widow show her remaining with the Lord until the very end - and she shall receive her reward.

Jesus is with us always, until the end of the age, and wonderful it is to share in His cross.

The hope of the crown of glory sustains us, Lord,  
through the trials of this life.  
Faith in you makes all things clear,  
and allows us to enter your glory.

Leave us never, dear Jesus.  
As shade in the heat of the day are you to us, O Lord.

## June 9

Body of Christ processing through the streets today;  
Body of Christ upon the altar of our God.  
Body of Christ in the park recreating;  
Body of Christ praying in church with all their hearts.

Body of Christ sharing a meal together,  
    all races and nationalities;  
Body of Christ celebrating the Eucharist,  
    being cleansed of all its frailties.

Through the wasteland the body and blood of Christ  
sustains us, letting us know we live by the Word of  
God alone, and that the wasteland is an illusion.

O Lord, thank you for the gift of your body and blood.  
May we be always before your Eucharist.  
May our bodies join with yours on the altar of sacrifice  
    and salvation.

## June 10

It is by the Word of God that all things come.

It is by the Word the rains come, or not.

It is by the Word we receive our food.

It is by the Word we find our work, our family,  
and so on...

All things proceed from the mouth of God.

And blessed are those who trust in God, who follow His Word. Those who humble themselves and suffer even persecution (as the prophets) shall be greatly blessed. (Remember Elijah was taken to heaven in a chariot.)

Read *The Old Man and the Sea* in one sitting this afternoon (in preparation for teaching a class). Striking Christian allusions: carrying the cross (the line across the back, the mast), the wounded hands of crucifixion, the three days of Passion, the poor and humble fisherman, and (in the tourists at the end) the inability of the world to understand.

And the lamb lies down with the lion.

May we carry our cross through this world  
never losing hope in you, O Lord.  
Finding strength and sustenance in you,  
let our missions be accomplished.

## June 11

The apostles are sent forth to preach and evangelize, to heal and bring peace to the faithful. And Barnabus is a good man who was pleased to see others blessed with the Holy Spirit he knew so well, and so was able to draw them even closer to God.

Are we light to others? Is our trust in the Lord evident?

Tonight at a small gathering of friends and their family was happy to share some of my life with them. (Had recently given a copy of my autobiography to my childhood friend.)

Even in simple ways we can make a difference in others' lives.

O Lord, thank you for the men you've sent before us  
to carry your word -  
and so it reaches us even this day.

May it continue through us to the ends of the earth.

## June 12

The Lord is Lord indeed; with Him resides all power.  
He hears all and is quick to answer His disciples.

Spent much time on the letters of my writing  
as I proofread a good part of my work.

Received the final drop of blood at communion today -  
a drop is all you need. It is enough to empower us.  
(What a wonder is this gift of eucharistic food.)

Finally rains today, after a few days of occasional  
threats from dark skies. (Hold not back your gifts  
from us, Lord.)

O Lord, with power you rule the heavens and the earth;  
all things are measured by your holy hands.  
Make us obedient to your word and your commands,  
that we might dwell eternally with you.

Let your prophets cry out your way.

## June 13

Scripture tells us if we are but angry with our brother, we are liable to judgment. I find myself rhetorically asking a good friend and kind person, "Why do I get angry so easily." This after I feel anger beginning to rise in me after a few simple arguments with three separate people. It should not be so, and I want it and expect it not, but it is there - and must go.

O Lord, take this sin in me from me.  
Cleanse all vestige of it out of my soul,  
that I may walk so freely with thee  
and discourse of your Spirit.

## June 14

Talking last night, as it turns out, about what would have been the readings for today: Elijah's hearing God's still, small (silent) voice; and turning away from the lustful gaze. The purity found in this exercise somehow escaped me today.

But this is the solemnity of the Sacred Heart and so of God's love we hear. And if it were not for God's love, that God loved us first, where would I be? There would be no remedy for my iniquity. Punishment only would I know.

But the Lord has sent His Son, and so forgiveness is become known... and our burden lightened.

O Lord, cover my sins.  
In the blood of Christ wash me clean,  
that I might stand with you all the day long.

Leave me not alone.  
Only in love let me be.

## June 15

"God does not call the able; He enables those He calls."  
(Quote from priest who pinch-hit tonight at a Mass in which I pinch-hit as lector.)

And on the solemnity of the Immaculate Heart today: after confession and while saying the rosary in church this morning, I know the humility of the Blessed Mother and her submissiveness to God's call. And she is made able by obedience; and we are brought to heaven by our humility - with a contrite heart, we shall find God.

The Mother is our mother and has a place in our lives and in our prayers because of her position as Queen of heaven. She is queen of heaven only because of her humble obedience (as Jesus is the servant King), and she can bring that gift into our own lives from where she is.

May we always be humble, O Lord,  
serving the least of our brothers.  
May we be always ready for your call,  
and made able by our reliance on you.

Work in us and through us, O Lord.  
Make us one with all your saints in the temple of God.



## June 16

The Lord calls us by name to be His priestly people, to serve the needs of others and sacrifice ourselves as He has done: we are His people, the sheep of His flock. Yes, He tends to us; and we must also be lambs of sacrifice for others.

A friend and brother tells me on the phone of his difficulties with his family and their understanding of his faith - how they probe and test him to see if he will fall. And another friend, who is like a brother to me, seems to turn away from me. But what can we do but pray for them, and turn the other cheek.

The Father is provident over all, and on this Father's Day it is good to remember His benevolence and power - and to see how we must be fathers, too.

Lord, I am powerless,  
and in my powerlessness you save me.

And I see your hand at work in my life,  
as I leave my life to you,  
Father of all.

## June 17

The Lord gives us our food in due season;  
what need we take of another man's garden?

And if one should seek to take of ours,  
why need we resist:  
the Lord gives us our food in due season.

O Lord, it is your hand which gives our food,  
and your bounty is ample for us.  
You bless us with our work for the day;  
and when it is accomplished,  
we return to you, O Lord.  
What you should give or take is in your hands,  
and we hold no presumption over it.

Thank you for this day.

## June 18

The cleansing blood of the Lord is so deep, His love is so profound - how can we come to these waters and drink?

It is overwhelming to think of Jesus' suffering, to consider His sacrifice for us - that which affirms the presence of love, and the power of love.

And how can we live that love in our own lives?  
How can we lay down our lives so, even for our enemies?  
And yet, in doing so we are redeemed, and relieved of any questions.

O Lord, let me bleed temperately with thee;  
let me cry tenderly in your love -  
gradually pierce my soul with your sword...

On this day of my birth I give you my life;  
grace me with the gift of acceptance.

## June 19

Who can see the invisible God who dwells in the soul of each of us? Not on the surface does He dwell, in things seen by man; no, the Lord looks on the heart. And deep within must we go to find He who is in secret.

If we live not the Word, our religion is useless. If it comes not from the heart then it is vain. What appears, the accidentals - our rites, and prayers, and art work - must have the Spirit as foundation, or they are empty. If we possess such truth inside, then they are reflective of God's glory. (And I see that the Protestants who are alienated by the trappings of the Church are most limited in their vision - they fail to see beyond these things and look upon the heart.)

I begin to become routine with my Liturgy of the Hours, and this practice brings me purity and dedication to work, as prayer is worked into the fabric of my day and I am reminded continually of Him.

O Lord, hide us in the shadow of your wings.  
May we see your chariots and be taken thereby to your heaven.  
Bless our work this side of your kingdom;  
    may we always reflect your glory, Lord.

## June 20

On this the anniversary of my sister's fall from the cliff which separates Hoboken and Jersey City, I walk in the evening down to Hoboken, traversing the same hill - though at the lower end - to watch a baseball game of my friend's nephew. After the game I am asked compassionately by a passing car if I'm sure I don't want a ride. I desire the exercise and, so, choose to climb instead. Upon reaching the top of the hill, I meet the aforementioned car waiting at a light, having just arrived. (Being unfamiliar with the path, they are surprised.)

And reading today of Elisha's miracles after death, I find assurance of praying to the dead, and am not ashamed for having called upon my sister, whose spirit is united with that of the Lord.

And I again commemorate this time of year with the copyrighting of new works: one a book of poetry and prose (*In Preparation for Departure*) and the other an hour of music (*There's Hope*). I pray the words and work I offer are not empty, but fruitful offerings to the Father.

Lord, in uniting with your angels and saints,  
let us find hope of life everlasting.  
Ready us for departure from this life,  
and union with you in heaven.  
And take all our work,  
and bless our steps along the way...

## June 21

"She flew so high, high, high,  
She touched the sky, sky, sky,  
And never came back  
Till the Fourth of July."

(So goes the children's rhyme - approximately.)

I recall hearing children singing this in the streets  
while sitting in the kitchen with my mother shortly  
after my sister's death.

And last night, in a dream, I am floating and flying  
(and trying to hide that I might be crying because  
of the sacrifice) into the sky, as my mother watches  
from the kitchen window of our old house...

To the sky do we go; to heaven do we fly,  
up, to where our treasure is,  
to our true home -  
where the angels are,  
where the Son of God does sit on the throne.

And we are children of vision, our eyes filled with light.  
And in our heavenly home we shall be the Lord's delight.

Take all darkness from me, Lord;  
wipe my tears away,  
that I might not hesitate to come unto thee.

## June 22

In the Old Testament reading, the son is killed by the Jews as they forget the kind guidance of the father - foreshadowing the death of the only Son, Jesus, by those who know not the love of the Father of all.

And I myself forget myself today. I turn from the Lord's Light and find myself overly involved in a youth's baseball game - wasting my voice with words of contradiction, and, so, wallowing in a kind of false pride.

But the Bread of Life soup kitchen is blessed with abundant food, and the hungry are well-fed. And in the evening I recollect myself and speak at length with a brother on the phone.

Still, the remembrances of my sister which had been so strong in this anniversary time were nonexistent today. (As if she were dead.)

O Lord, may we lose our souls not in violence;  
may we never lose the light you give to our minds.  
Signal us ever forward, Lord, to your kingdom -  
where you care for all we need.

## June 23

Though it comes with a price, we must expose our souls;  
we must acknowledge what the Lord has done for us  
before men.

And a sense of the difficulty I get as I speak with my  
mother about the copy of my autobiography I gave her for  
Mother's Day. It is hard for her to read the recounting  
of the sins of my youth. But it is the truth, and shows  
how far the Lord has brought me.

Dealing with these things is appropriate today, the  
actual anniversary of my sister's death, for the role I  
believe my sins (like drug-taking) played in her death.

But the free gift of grace far exceeds the depths of our  
sin, and the Lord takes care to watch over even the fall  
of a sparrow. And, though troubled at first, after  
reflection, my mother is able to go on reading.

O Lord, praise you for your grace,  
    which redeems us from all depths.  
And in your hands all things work toward good,  
    and are turned to cause for celebration.

(P.S. White flowers abound on my sister's grave;  
    and a man with Down's Syndrome drops a soda can,  
    and I am given a light shower (of cleansing for my sins)  
from the hole in its side.)



## June 24

To what does the Lord call us?  
Where would He have us be?

Are you listening to the call of the Lord?  
Do you hear the voice crying in the wilderness:  
"Repent of your sin"?

And what end is in store for us?

O Lord, I am a sinner,  
and my sin has wrought in me such things  
as it seems I cannot conquer.

Lead me forth with your voice;  
let me be whom I was meant to be.

## June 25

Truly, the Lord upholds His city.  
Through whatever trials and tribulations may come,  
whatever struggles we must endure, we know that Jesus  
is always there with us - despite our sliding away.  
If you call on Him, He is there. Have faith that  
the Lord does prevail.

And so, the struggles of life shall not overtake me.  
Though I may be tempted by the wide and clear road,  
I know my heart is set on the narrow path. And I  
will endure until the end, for He is with us always.

The Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep.

O Lord, thank you for always being there,  
even when I sin.  
And thank you for redeeming me from the road to destruction,  
and bringing me to the road to life.

## June 26

O the power of the Word, and the foundation that the WORD is.

Hilkiah and the Jews of his time were profoundly affected by the discovery of the Word as expressed in sacred Scripture; and I am reminded again of the significance of the silent Name of God (YHWH) upon which my life should rest.

The silent WORD is in each of us, being our very breath, and is heard not by the wise of this world, but by babes, by the innocent and simple of soul. All words come from this silence and must be reverent of this silence to be of any worth. (And I pray the light of silence in each of us be heard by all.)

But the word is also strong for evil by those false and perverse prophets, presuming by human hands to speak for God. And I come only to the corner of the block of my church before seeing Jehovah's Witnesses - those who claim the Name of God, but are utterly deaf to His silent voice and His Word made flesh.

Lord, let us listen to your voice speaking clearly in all sound.  
Let us plumb the heart of your silent WORD.  
May we not cover its purity in us with dark distractions;  
may we be firmly founded in your WORD alone.

## June 27

If we ask the Lord questions like those presented in the gospel, it shows that we are expecting return for good deeds done. Therefore, we are not working with a spirit of sacrifice and our work is not of Christ and will never bring us to heaven. We must know always that we are unworthy of heaven, and not seek to justify ourselves. In fact, the greater our deeds, the more we should realize our own unworthiness - for it is only the Lord who does any good work.

And this morning, before the Blessed Sacrament, I can only examine my own heart and its motives. I find a sense of vanity in my prayer of late, reciting words mechanically, and so I put a series of questions to myself to test my heart - even as the priest later does in his homily.

Are we coming to the Lord out of love?  
Do we truly desire His presence?  
Is He first in all our lives?

O Lord, set my life in your divine order,  
with you as first in all things;  
and let my heart overflow with a love for you,  
that no vain desires may distract me.

## June 28

Since first reading of the Babylonian exile, I've been fascinated by those poorest of the people who were left behind to till the earth - who never went into exile. "The meek shall inherit the earth," and here is a foreshadowing of this.

And this evening I find myself tilling earth as I help my friend level ground in his yard for sodding. There is something very real about the earth - we are human after all... and foundations and such continue to course through my days. Is the Lord setting the beginnings of a new calling for me? Will he bring my work to fruition? And my life?

(Though I do not attend, there is a healing service in our church this night. I pray the Lord reached out His hand to cleanse many, and that I might also know His touch.)

O Lord, touch me and cleanse me;  
make me gentle and humble of heart,  
that I might serve you in all I do -  
that my life might be renewed  
and built again in you.

## June 29

Striking readings today for the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul: theme on prison and release.

The first reading, on Peter's escape from prison, seemed to me a symbol for an entering into heaven. The shackles fall from him; he is led past guards; the door opens of its own accord; and the angel stays with him until he is safely away. And so are we released from sin; kept from death, the devil, and temptations; and brought into the kingdom. (And let in, ironically, by the keeper of the keys - Peter.)

And so, too, the prisoner, Paul, awaits his release after being guarded and kept in the path all the way.

I only pray the same may be so for myself - that the mask of sin might fall from my face, that I may be so humble and reliant on the Lord, and so be guided into that paradise... And there shall be flowers abounding.

O Lord, guide us to your paradise;  
send your angels to guide us there.  
Though we fall asleep in our weakness,  
wake us and lead us to you.

## June 30

"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it."

Struggling in anxiety to find my life, to set my course, to settle a place for myself with regard to work and art and relationships... chasing my tail, again. And so, the above words ring true.

We cannot by our human hands make a place for ourselves; it is impossible to put your finger on the will of God. We must trust that He will take care of our needs, as He did for Elisha by the woman's generosity, and not vainly grasp at straws of delusion.

If we can trust in Him, forgetting our own wills and laying down our lives, we will have all we need - all will be cared for. If in anxiety we search for facile solutions, in sin we shall lose our souls.

O angel of God, hold me in your arms,  
and comfort me in times of trouble -  
may my heart rest in the Spirit of God  
and the Father of all.

## July 1

O to have nowhere to lay my head!  
To be so trusting in the Lord and reliant on His power -  
for who is able to provide better than He?

And my day, though not perfect (and I see the  
imperfections), is blessed by the Lord as He guides  
me in my wanderings from work in one place to another...  
and the time in between. (Even some opportunity for  
preaching His word.)

But O to have nowhere to lay my head -  
to be as a spec of dust,  
needing not worry what to eat  
or where to sleep...

Then I would never fear being crushed by the Lord,  
as I did this early morning.  
Then I would be so humble  
that nothing would ever harm me.

Increase within me your gifts, O Lord,  
your gifts of discipleship.  
Save me from the deadly jaws of this world.

May I triumph in the struggle -  
let me not have to hit rock bottom  
to know I need but to breathe to live.



## July 2

Even the winds and the sea obey Him.

He has power to calm the waters of passion.  
He is able to turn the tide of man's sin,  
and so save him from the destruction prepared by the LORD  
for those who fall in sin.

There is no other hope for us poor mortals  
but the only Son; and it is but faith we need  
to weather the storm and come into the presence  
of God.

Do not fear; only believe.

There is a light, I know, O Lord,  
that awaits us all,  
and there is eternal condemnation -  
and both are scented by your justice, Lord;  
both are of your truth.

May our faith keep us in the light of your presence  
through all temptation and judgment.

## July 3

This early morning I do believe; I do have faith.  
And my prayer for the Church is very real -  
the light is there. "Come, Lord Jesus."

I am ready, and none of the obstacles the day  
presents can dissuade me from my faith. Not labor.  
Not exhaustion. Not betrayal. No wickedness can  
stand in my way - the Lord is with me.

O Lord, may I always be so faith-filled.  
May your light ever be so clear to me.  
May I always remember what matters - you -  
and the souls of your faithful.

## July 4

Yes, Jesus has the power to forgive men's sins,  
and He gives that power to His ordained priests.  
And so I go to confession for the absolution of my sins.

In the past I have known the condemnation that comes from  
great sin; I pray I shall never again take a prostitute  
to wife or find myself exiled in a strange land.

O Lord, grant me the wisdom I need;  
give me the guidance of your Spirit.  
Thank you for watching over me -  
I know I am always dependent on your grace.

## July 5

The word of the Lord may be found before His Blessed Sacrament. In silence, in stillness in His presence He speaks with the soul who seeks Him. Here is a reservoir of the Spirit and the continuance of His mercy to all mankind. Here is food indeed.

May the Lord never take this sacrament from us;  
may He never remove this gift from our Church.  
For it is what sustains the heart set on Him;  
it brings salvation to the contrite heart.

O Lord, be always with us, in this sacrament  
of your body and blood.  
May there be no famine of your word in our Church;  
increase within us your own true Word.

(Here there is guidance to be found,  
as light thoroughly fills my mind.)

## July 6

Is not Jesus the bridegroom of our soul?  
Is it not He who brings peace -  
    who makes our cup overflow -  
    who plants us upon the land so we shall not be  
        pulled up again?

Is it not He who brings life again to this human form?

It is the Lord to whom we must all be wed -  
    no marriage stands except in He.  
And those who give their lives totally to Him  
    know best the absolute peace He does bring.

Wed upon His cross, and in His resurrection -  
    we share the fruits of eternal salvation  
    by sharing in His suffering.

Take our lives entirely, O Lord.  
Let nothing be ever put before thee.  
May I be married, Lord,  
    faithfully to thee.

## July 7

Though I lay in the valley of dry bones and walk through the depths of darkness, the Lord assures me He will breathe life into me again and have me do His will mightily. He will grant me the wisdom I require, as of a child, and restore me to His rightful call.

But I am dead today, dead in spirit. Anxiety of the week has bred laziness at its end, and confusion reigns in my heart. I am in the midst of a struggle which I believe the Lord will pull me through, and bring me to a place anew. I believe He will take the violence from my hands and bless me in His will again.

Someday soon may the deeds of the flesh be put to death by the power of the Spirit.

O Lord, by the mouth of a child you tell me wisdom  
is mine if I seek it,  
and you encourage hope in my work.

Take me from the pit of darkness;  
I do seek your light -  
humbly may I adore you.

## July 8

I know only faith will make me well, faith and the mercy of God. For Christ will come to those who call upon Him, with faith and true desire for His presence.

I know if He heals me I shall be well;  
I know I may come to be His bride.

Speak to me, Lord, your words of healing grace.  
"Be well," let me hear you say.  
Your words flow out like cleansing showers,  
and your call alone is holy.

Come to me, Lord.  
May I have faith in you.  
(Raise the child from the grave.)

## July 9

Speak the truth, and ye shall be indeed free.  
The power of truth overcomes all power of darkness.

A young college student asks of me in a wicked way (known to him or not I know not) if I look at beautiful girls as they pass. (He had witnessed my noticing the legs of a certain young woman.) He even ventured to quote from the Bible to me. I told him as a Christian I try to look the other way, but as a human I sometimes fail, and look. I told the truth, and the answer itself was not very important, but the truth, whatever it is, will always silence the enemy.

(Earlier in the day I had been confronted by lust, and, addressing the situation in prayer, was enabled by the Lord to overcome it - Light conquers darkness.)

Open my lips, Lord, that I might always speak the truth,  
and thus be qualified as a laborer in your fields.  
Strengthen me against temptation by the light of your truth;  
may my tongue always praise you -  
for in you is true power.



## July 10

The kingdom of heaven is at hand. It is nigh.  
It is in the midst of us. And the extent to which  
we are blind to its eternal presence is the extent  
to which we are blinded by the idols of this world.

What is it that keeps you from seeing the kingdom of God?  
What indeed blinds your pure vision?  
For Christ has brought the kingdom to us  
in the form of a man, God's only Son.

And in His Church the kingdom remains,  
in the flesh and blood of we humans.  
Do you see the kingdom live and breathe  
in His priests and in we thieves?

Today you might live in paradise,  
if you were to lay down your lives.

O Lord, may I see in my fellow man,  
in your Church upon the earth,  
the presence of the kingdom.  
May we all glory in you, our eternal Father.

## July 11

Today is a national day of prayer and fasting suggested by the Catholic Church to protest against abortion and, specifically, the horrors of partial-birth abortion. In the spirit of the day, I hand out some of the brochures I recently received which give detailed information about this procedure and its place in the legislature. Also, inspired by the gospel instructing the apostles to give freely what they have been given freely, I offer an abortion poem to the national pro-life newspaper.

And the first reading is most appropriate for the day, speaking as it does of God's tender care of His children - as a mother for her infant.

O Lord, to what depths can we fall!  
Forgive us, Lord, and return life to these shores.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and let the light of the truth  
of this situation, of this crime,  
be known by all.

Let us not in ignorance suffer these tortures  
to your most innocent.

## July 12

Washing clothes, cleaning house, pruning flowers, and fixing brakes... And continuing to hand out abortion literature, and witness to its cruelty.

In the house of the Lord, there is a light -  
I approach the beacon this day  
(though only by the strong hand of God).

O Lord, bless me as I struggle to come to you.  
Let me dwell in your truth.

## July 13

Here I am, Lord. Take this writing. Take my life.  
Take the music I play, the songs I sing; all I do  
and all you bring to me.

I take a couple of opportunities to perform songs today,  
well-done or no becomes secondary. Must bear fruit in  
the light and allow the Lord to guide. And protesting  
for the fetus in the womb seems to be a key to my call.  
(Remember the cover of *Songs for Children of Light*.)

And confession prepared yesterday is offered today, and  
absolution found. And understanding is granted by the  
Lord upon reflection of a problematic situation -  
interpretation of vision.

O Lord, your majesty is overwhelming,  
but being innocent as children  
I know we may stand  
in your presence quite naturally.

Take my life and let me live in light with you -  
angels, guard my soul.

## July 14

I pray the word of God will bear fruit in the hard ground of my soul. I pray particularly for the bread of life and the spirit of truth to sink deep into my heart, purge me, and make me innocent once more - to remember the child within me.

And spending the day at a lake with my little brother from church and his family, including two small children (one but a baby), I find opportunity for refreshment of soul and remembrance of innocence. And we were blessed with an abundance of good food from the bounty of God.

O Lord, praise you for your creation.  
Praise you for Nature, which gives us sustenance for our lives.  
And make us ever your innocent children,  
    never growing beyond your commands  
    or above your calling:  
    keep me humble upon this earth.

## July 15

The sword of the Lord cuts to the marrow of this world, dividing soul and spirit, and dividing good from evil. And the evil shall be cast out into the eternal darkness from which it came. And where shall you be found? Will your sins weigh you in the balance of unrighteousness, and so, will evil overtake you?

Do not fool yourself with vain sacrifice, with mechanical prayer. Bear fruit worthy of the kingdom. Repent and reform your lives. There is precious little time left before the sword comes forth - do the will of the Lord in this world.

How worthy is my life today?  
Have I lent support to the kingdom?  
I can think only of a moment in class  
    when I spoke for God  
    and against the vain theory of evolution.

It does not seem enough.  
While there is light we should be working for the kingdom.

O Lord, I am weak and off the path.  
How might I find my way to you?

## July 16

There is no need to fear; the Lord is watching over.  
If you stand with the Lord, nothing shall ever trouble you.

Feeling heavily burdened with labor and a lack of sleep,  
anticipation of the tasks of the day brings trepidation.  
But I pray to the Lord and offer Him my day, trusting  
in His grace and guidance - and it is there. He does  
take care.

Christ is the source of wisdom, of love, of peace,  
and of strength - turn not from His call.

O Lord, let me never forget you.  
Draw me closer to you day to day.  
Give me all opportunity to express my love for you;  
angels, watch over me.

## July 17

The Lord is exalted above all our actions;  
    what are we in comparison with Him.  
Without the Lord we are as nothing.  
When we finish our work in this world,  
    we can but say, "We have only done our duty."

Seeking to trust in the Lord in greater ways, to entrust  
all things to His care. As I faithfully give Him my  
writing and believe implicitly that He does bless this,  
I would give Him my heart, my relationships with others.  
As I seek to give Him my mind in my work of teaching,  
depending upon His wisdom, so I would give Him my body -  
even unto death.

O Lord, reveal unto this little one  
    the glory of your ways.  
To live in heaven we must trust in you;  
    we must give our lives over to your will.



## July 18

If there ever was a town that was of dust, it must be Jersey City. If there were ever those doomed to die in the violence and dirt of its streets, it is this place. Here I live in the armpit of the nation.

And yet, this morning as I walk to church, a cloud of peace descends upon these streets - a sense of heaven comes to even this place. And a word of hope is offered by the Scriptures: the Lord will rescue those doomed to die, those who dwell in dust. (And the priest speaks peace - "Shalom Shalom" - unto the people.)

We will come to you, dear Lord, and so find rest;  
for you will carry us home.

## July 19

Was sick to my stomach this morning, and had been for the past few days. But I realize as I sit here this night, the Lord has heard my prayers and brought healing.

And though I have fasted today, I know it is not this which has cured me, but the mercy of the Lord.  
(His grace transcends all things.)

O Lord, clear away the dark clouds  
and let your blue sky be upon us.  
Let the clear, celestial firmament  
heal all our infirmity.

## July 20

As Christians, we are to be citizens of heaven;  
this is our realm, our nation, and Jesus is our King.

This is the time of the Olympic Games, and it strikes me  
that, indeed, our country is the heavenly kingdom, and it  
is for Jesus we run our race. It is heaven which should  
find our allegiance, which we should represent - upon  
which our hearts should be set. And commit to the rule  
of our King we must.

Within the boundary of heaven we find our home.  
Trust not in nations, but hope in the Lord.

And today, the poor find support at our soup kitchen;  
and the divine mercy of God pours forth in our church  
in the blood of Christ.

Kingdom of heaven, my only home,  
may I never forget thee.  
Keep in mind Jesus our Savior,  
who holds justice and grace in His hands.

## **July 21**

The Lord is kind and merciful. He forgives sins  
and blesses those who call upon His Name.

I play guitar and lead the singing at Mass today  
for the first time. The Lord smooths the path before me.

Lord, thank you for cleansing me of my sins  
and blessing my day.  
May for that final day I be ready.

## July 22

Yes, I do seem today to be seeking "Him whom my soul loves." I am putting aside vain thoughts and practicing a self-control that remains present to me. I must pray it does last. I must have faith and it will.

Jesus is my love, and yet how poorly I do show that love. He has risen from the grave to lead us to the heavenly kingdom, and yet how we go on in ignorance. Do we seek like Mary Magdalene? Do we weep like Mary Magdalene? No. We are so blind. We are so presumptive of Christ's grace. But if we seek Him not, He shall not be found. And our soul shall lose its love.

O Lord, may I remain in you.  
May the grace of confession, the forgiveness of my sins,  
    remain with me;  
    may it become complete.

May even these sinful eyes be blessed with the sight of you.

## July 23

The Lord's grace is wonderful; His forgiveness  
is a marvel to behold.

And I find a strong sense of the Lord's forgiveness in  
my own life as my mind clears from sin and self-control  
returns again. (Over the weekend, I witnessed absolutely  
cloudless skies on two mornings.)

Re the gospel: we are all brothers and sisters,  
and related in the blood of Christ.

This evening, had a rather profound experience. Received  
package of plastic model preborn babies of 11-12 weeks,  
and took one to tutoring with me. Tutors sitting around  
with little to do, so I took out the model as a pro-life  
conversation piece. After discussing matters for a short  
while, one of the tutors, a nineteen-year-old girl,  
confessed to me that she is pregnant and, though she  
would choose to have the baby, her father is pressuring  
her to have an abortion. She has an appointment for  
Saturday. (I would do all I could to help her have the  
baby.)

O Lord, let us be a family of life.  
Banish sin and death from our midst.  
(And please bless this child.)

## July 24

After last evening's incident, I found it more than curious that today's first reading spoke of God calling Jeremiah before He was formed in the womb. (All life is indeed in God's hands.)

In this reading I also find consideration of what the Lord may be calling me to. I know that if I do not write, I shall die, and I know the gifts the Lord has given me - but how they should be employed and if I am doing so well are present questions. And to what extent and in what fashion should I devote my life to Christ and the Church?

Is there a call I am missing, Lord?  
I know we can always come closer to you.  
Draw me forth by your Spirit.

And, Lord, please clear up all controversy regarding abortion.  
Let truth ring out with regard to this great difficulty.  
Take the scourge from us.

## July 25

Laying down his life in martyrdom, my name's sake,  
St. James, leads the way to my own vocation. In the  
words of the reading and of the gospel, I hear a call  
to service; and the thoughts I've had of the diaconry  
are confirmed.

I believe this is a call for my life - to make official  
what I practice, to take vows in ordination as a deacon.  
And though it will be some time hence (two years before  
beginning four years of training), this realization  
offers direction for my thoughts and my life. And it  
gives me six years to find a wife, if I am to have one.

May this place of service be well set for me.

O Lord, take my life.  
Thank you for your call  
and the order your word brings to me.

Bless my steps to you.  
May I always serve you well.



## July 26

As days go by, the light becomes clearer; the message goes forth and the revelation of the kingdom becomes complete. We see today what others gave their lives to see yesterday. Yes, this is the presence of Christ, but also the teaching of the Spirit, which instructs us daily - ever opening our eyes to Truth.

And so, sometimes simply making it through another day, in avoidance of sin, can itself be a victory of sorts; for we are now one day closer to heaven.

Increase our wisdom daily, Lord.  
Form us ever in your image;  
    lead us ever into your light.

Thank you, Lord, for those who have come before us,  
    paving the way.  
Thank you for where we are today,  
and may we provide passage for those who come after.

## July 27

I'm afraid there are weeds even in the house of God.  
But we cannot judge. We cannot go about uprooting  
brothers and sisters. We cannot call fire of  
condemnation down upon anyone. For who are we?  
Are we ourselves indeed so lacking in imperfection?  
And the battle is a spiritual one, not earthly.

Beware blindness of thine own sin and judgment  
of others, lest you bring condemnation upon yourself.  
The battle of life and death of soul is fought among  
principalities and powers, not flesh and blood, so  
condemn not your brother - forgive, and pray for his  
soul.

O Lord, that we might dwell eternally in your majestic kingdom.  
Remove all judgment from us (and all sin),  
and we shall be there.

Thank you for your prophets who cry out the way;  
and thank you for your blood which leads us home.

## July 28

For years, the pearl of great price was for me *Songs for Children of Light*. It was something from the Lord to which I gave all my energy. That it remains unpublished and unproduced continues to cause question in my soul as to my accomplishing God's will. The Lord has given me many fruitful writings since then (and continues to do so), but these, too, remain greatly unpublished. What should be done with them I leave in the Lord's hands.

The Lord does bless me today, however, as I again lead song in my church. I thank Him for this and give glory to Him and pray He shall always guide me.

Let your wisdom be always with me, Lord;  
let me never turn from your Word.  
For these many years your wisdom has been my treasure;  
may it be so till the end of my days.

## July 29

Still before the Lord, I hear His voice, I am filled  
with His light; He makes this a new day, of purity,  
and wrought with possibility for good.

Burdened with the labors of the day, I do forget,  
I do tend to lose His presence...

Mary and Martha. The duel of our lives. And only in  
the integration of work and devotion are we made whole.  
For as humans we must do, and as Christians we must  
always reverence the Lord.

And so...

Take my life, O Lord.  
May I be always before you,  
and may your Word ever be with me.

And may thy will be done in my life.

## July 30

I weep like the prophet Jeremiah.  
I cry out, "Why, O Lord God?"  
I feel as if shot;  
    and on goes the evil around us...

I learn today the young woman I spoke of last week  
went through with her abortion despite my prayers,  
and even despite the protests of people at the clinic.

At Mass this morning the priest tells us we cannot expect  
always to triumph. Jeremiah never did. The situation  
around him only grew worse. But cry on we must.

Even from the womb Jeremiah cries out for justice.

O Lord, increase my conviction in your call.  
Let me live out your truth all my days,  
    despite any obstacles,  
    even my own death.  
For it would mean only glory to die for you.

## July 31

Yesterday the Lord let me know of the difficulties in getting his message across. Today He instructs me in my lack of singularity of purpose.

Just as Jeremiah mixed the vile with the precious and had to turn from what is worthless to serve the Lord truly, so I know I must be steadfast in my words and in my service of Christ. I know I was not thoroughly convinced in speaking to the young woman (though it may not have mattered). I know my life is mixed with sinfulness that can thwart my purpose.

I must be as the man who sells all he has to find the treasure of heaven. I must give all myself to the kingdom of God. I must be so single of heart and mind to find the pearl of great price.

O Lord, I praise you for your instruction.  
I pray you shall not take your hand from me  
    but that you will continue to guide me  
    to the heavenly gates where you reside.

Take my life, Lord, and let it be lived in your strength.

## August 1

There are those who shall weep and wail outside the gates of heaven. There are those who have given themselves up to iniquity, who are the servants of the devil. There are those who will be cast into outer darkness, where there is grinding of teeth. There is a place of torment prepared for the wicked.

And there are those who will be at rest in the kingdom - within His holy temple they shall find their refuge. There shall be everlasting peace in Jesus Christ the King; in Him they will find their home.

Eternity is undeniable, and the kingdom of heaven is all that matters. Let it be your guiding principle; let remembrance of its grace remain in your heart. Allow the Lord to form your soul according to His mighty will, and the kingdom will be yours.

O Lord, let your peace rest upon us;  
keep us ever from the snares of wickedness.  
Take the seven devils from our presence -  
let us enter your gates, bow down before you,  
and sing your praise in strength.

(Notes: A cat cries outside the church walls;  
a dream of the sadistic.

Also, priest speaks of the effectiveness  
of the dramatic;  
a man who praises God wins the decathlon,  
as I think of my ten albums.)

## August 2

Courage and conviction. I feel a readiness in the Lord upon me, even unto death. And in it is even a hopefulness of producing my work.

I am gaining faith to step out for the Lord. Yesterday I handed out a few brochures about the evils of partial-birth abortion, and, in witnessing to a friend who works in an office of one of the schools, found strength. (She and another secretary joked about killing me, but they listened and were appreciative.)

I have also finally acquired a full version of the *Liturgy of the Hours* and have begun genuine and regular daily prayer.

And the Lord asks me, as I finish a month of extensive teaching and tutoring and approach a month of freer time, if I am afraid to face His call, to do His work and will (in writing et. al.). And I can actually say, "No."

Fulfill this courage and conviction within me, Lord.  
Let me step forward and accomplish your call,  
despite any persecution I may encounter.

Without any fear of failure,  
let me serve you in truth.  
Sustain my confidence,  
and watch over me as you do this day.



## August 3

First Saturday, and, so, dedicated in liturgy to Blessed Mother, "Cause of our Joy."

Had been thinking about what a friend had told me about the word "joy" - an acronym for it: "Jesus. Others. You." Realizing of late the importance of living for the Lord by giving to others, doing for the common good, and putting aside thoughts of myself. As Mary visits Elizabeth even in her pregnancy, so should we be so ready to give our lives for others.

Another striking thing about today's liturgy is that both the gospel for the day and the one read contain important reference to John the Baptist - the beginning and end of the life of him whom Jesus has called the greatest of men - confirming that the Lord is calling me to be strong, too, in speaking His word.

And the Lord blessed with joy the birthday party of my childhood friend's son. I saw His hand at work, blessing the conversation, as I had prayed.

O Lord, you are so faithful to us.  
Bless me with the opening of my heart to others  
to share with them the gifts you give me.  
And, Blessed Mother, pray for me.

## August 4

Like a bird in flight,  
    passing from one day into the next,  
so is my soul,  
    so are those  
        alive in the Lord.

The Lord gives me bread in abundance,  
    and He blesses me with His word.

And through the darkness of this night  
    my soul shall fly;  
    sustained by the Word of Christ,  
        who is the resurrection and the life -  
  
not even the bonds of death shall hold me.

O Lord, you feed me each day with your Word;  
    you are so near, I feel thy angels about me.  
And as we pass from glory unto glory,  
    I praise your undying light.

## August 5

Listening again to the gospel (same as yesterday, though incorrectly, according to my missalette), I hear that the disciples distributed the food to the people (after separating them into groups) - and I see that previously Jesus had asked them to feed the people.

Jesus provides the bread and calls His chosen to do the work. And if not properly chosen, prophets can do nothing - we cannot assume power from the Lord - lest we die.

I find in all this confirmation of the role of the Catholic Church... additionally confirmed by what the gospel should have been - Jesus calling Peter to walk on the water with Him.

The clear call of the Lord rings out in the heavens,  
and all ears hear its truth.

Lord, call us forth to serve you;  
let us never overstep the bounds of your will.  
May your Spirit always be here to bless and guide us;  
may we always move in the confines of your holy law.

(And the bread of the Lord resounds to the Eucharist  
distributed by His priests.)

## August 6

How far have I yet to go before I may stand before He whose face radiates Light.

I find myself undergoing transformation. In this year of Penance, so declared by the pope, I do find myself purging sin from my life. But even as I make strides and cast aside devils that have haunted me for years, I do find sins well-hidden beneath. (But in peace and patience they may be purged.)

There is a judgmental soul within me which must learn forgiveness, which must learn what is the spirit of Christ's redemption, while casting aside all condemnation. "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged. Condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned." Pray in hope, never despair, for the good of others.

So far have I yet to travel before I come to He who is the Son of God.

Shine your light upon us, Lord.  
Keep us awake and in you.  
Lift our heads to see your holy face.

## August 7

We cry out to the Lord,  
    and He hears our voice.  
And the Lord shall redeem the remnant of the land,  
    though sit in sadness they do.

The promise is sure,  
    despite the darkness that surrounds us  
    and sometimes confounds our minds.  
Yet, if we cry out, He hears us.

Your faith alone shall make you whole, my child.  
Endure until the end.  
Seek the truth in all things,  
    and the Lord will set you free.

O Lord, set me free from that which binds me.  
Though I sit in darkness,  
    let your light break upon me.  
Let me walk through this world, holding your Word.

(Deep fog this morning; a walk through the park.  
Severe temptation, from which prayer does save me.

Life goes on, and we must go on until the Lord calls.)

## August 8

Have been reading a history of Christian Thought, first volume dealing principally with theological disputes principally between sees of the East. (In fact, the West and Rome are mentioned very little - being less subject to such arguments.) End of first volume on Christology - appropriately for today's gospel.

Into these rather petty disputes steps Pope Leo with the clearest and simplest statement re Christ as man *and* God. And much as at the first council, at this council (of Chalcedon) the bishops listen to Peter. Reaffirms what Christ declares in today's gospel - upon Peter is built the Church and he is given the keys of heaven here on earth. (Although in the gospel Peter as yet has difficulty seeing Christ as man... but transfiguration, death, and resurrection have yet to come.)

Another thread in today's reading is forgiveness - Psalm 51 and Jeremiah's final words, "sin no more." And today I type up a new work, *To Sin No More*, as I continue to struggle with, and to conquer, my sin.

Jesus is the new covenant, our salvation from all sin; and the Holy Spirit writes the Father's Name upon our hearts; and the Church is the home of the Spirit.

O Lord, may the gates of your Truth be open to all,  
and may they enter so clean.

## August 9

Yes, truly in the Lord's hands are both death and life (and all things). Today He (rightly) inflicts wounds upon me, then is the source of my healing.

Today I stumble and fall in sin - blindly - and so despair does rack my soul. But I cry unto the Lord and pray in truth for His forgiveness, and His healing graces come...

Upon what do you set your heart?  
Do you take up the cross of Christ?  
Do you seek His will in all things,  
or blindly amble forth in pride?

Serve Him alone, who is all-powerful.

O Lord, I am so weak and you are so strong.  
Thank you for accepting my return to you;  
but I pray you shall take entirely my soul.

## August 10

Feast of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr.

And this day I gave a little more in service to the church and soup kitchen, and am just a little more generous (setting up a few chairs, buying milk and wire to hang a picture of the Sacred Heart...) Sometimes I would give my whole life - I know the Lord would take care... but I do lack strength; I do lack faith (though I am reminded how once I had it, and that I may again).

Take our service, O Lord,  
and our lives.  
Keep us on straight paths to thee -  
even unto death.

May we simply live for you,  
doing the work you assign us.

(In a "chance" meeting, discussed deacon's call with another who once was interested in Orders. When I knew this person well, I was so pure, turning my head from every temptation.)



## August 11

The still, small voice made flesh in Jesus walks silently upon the tempest-tossed sea, and would have us follow Him, unscathed by the temptations and distractions and catastrophes of life, if we had but faith, if we but held that still, small voice in reverence at the center of our souls.

O that His Word would take root in me, and that the diversions of this world would be so uprooted...  
That He alone would take up residence in my heart.

When, O Lord?  
When shall it be that I shall walk to thee  
    in faith through the fire of this world?

Make us obedient to your voice.

## August 12

The glory of the Lord is overwhelming;  
if only a glimmer of that which gleams like electrum  
would touch my soul, I would be well.  
If only we could remember the majestic splendor  
of our King.

I step out my window today to sit upon the roof. There  
are trees. There is a measure of solitude in this exile.  
May the Lord grace me with His vision of peace as I  
contemplate His Word in this quiet place.

We are all in exile, seeking the face of God.

Guide us, Lord, in our quest to find you.  
Grace us with the Light from your face.  
Pierce our hearts and purge us with that fire;  
O the wonder that you have been here as we are!

## August 13

Two of my favorite readings today: Ezekial eating the scroll and Jesus placing a child in the midst of the disciples. And with open mouth I pant (psalm), doing well to remember, and pray, the Name of God - YHWH.

Lines at unemployment this morning; lines at healing Mass this evening... will there be lines into heaven? And having arrived after the Mass this evening, I come to one of the priests and ask as a child for him to bless me; and as a child he receives me.

Lord, I thank you for your blessings,  
for your hand upon me.  
I pray I may always be true to your Word  
in the work and words you give me.

Lead us to your kingdom.

## August 14

Vision of the Lord. How glorious He is. And how present He is in the Eucharist, how real He does become.

Dreamt last night of chastising a friend (and wife) about their financial practices. They listened. And I spend time this evening with that friend (unusual because I don't often see him during the week) and discuss the dream with him and put forth some measure of the discipline. He is understanding.

And this morning in church, a strong sense of the Church and the Holy Spirit which guides it (after last night's healing Mass). Oh that all were so directed by the love of the Spirit! For we are heaven on earth.

O Lord, may we who are marked out by you  
serve you and one another in this world.  
May we lay down our lives for one another,  
even as to follow the example of Maximilian Kolbe.

(Reminded of how my friend told me - a long time ago - about a dream he'd had of the two of us on a pile of dead bodies - as in a Nazi concentration camp - and how he had told me to be quiet and pretend we were dead, till the officers pass...)

## August 15

Feast of the Assumption, and I receive sample copies of *Soul* magazine (devoted to Fatima message) in the mail.

Reading of the miracle of the sun at the final apparition at Fatima - sun 'dances' then is flung toward Earth - how can anyone deny what is foretold and witnessed by 100,000 people? And since it must be genuine, how important must its message be. (A great call to repentance.)

And I feel, again, a presence behind me - an angel? - and I pray it be of the Lord... but I witness no corporeal being.

O we are so mortal!

O Lord, how shall these eyes of flesh  
    ever gaze upon your eternal face.  
Lift us up from this earth  
    to see with eyes of heaven.

## August 16

Marriage is obviously the matter of today's readings - symbolically in the lengthy passage from Ezekiel, describing Israel as the Lord's chosen bride (despite unfaithfulness); and literally in the gospel. It is an eternal bond whose source is God.

Discuss today the difficult situation of a friend whose girlfriend has again broken up with him... again I am left to wonder of the possibility of true love in this day and age... And we practice a song in which I call Jesus my husband.

For any relationship to work, Jesus must be first; He must be the first love. He is the new covenant, and so is the source of our love.

O Lord, please bless all marriages;  
    may they all be in your hands.  
Let none enter into vows  
    who do not love you first.

Return to us the love that only you bring.

## August 17

Much-needed repentance today. And I am sorry the Lord has had to chastise me, for I know He takes "no pleasure in the death of anyone." He wishes but love for our lives, and to live in His love.

O that we could come to the Lord as children. That we could come so humbly, so obediently, with such pure wonder of His presence - with the trust and innocence only a child has.

The Lord does not spurn a contrite heart.  
(O that the contrition would remain.)

O Lord, you break the chains that bind us;  
you rescue our souls from the pit.

When shall I truly be as a child?

## August 18

God has imprisoned me in disobedience that He might show me mercy. And though my disobedience has been great, greater has been His mercy, which I do not merit. Wherefore it comes I know not, except in God's good will.

And my heart is on healing today. So many are ill physically, and so many I see are mentally ill. And from whence shall the healing graces flow, except from God? Why is there such addiction to drugs which cannot cure? Why does no one turn to God who can cure all by the whisper of a word? Only He can set us free from what ails us - but where is there faith?

May the nations and the peoples flow to your house of prayer to find all wholeness and happiness, Lord.  
May your Spirit descend upon all.  
May all trust in you, and so find healing.

Come, renew the face of the earth.  
Return us to your fold.  
Save us, O Lord. We believe.



## August 19

(Note: Mistakenly read wrong reading this morning at Mass; priest continued and read wrong gospel. Lectionary was set a week ahead and I did not notice. But must use day's readings for reflection anyway, though didn't notice error till tonight.)

Ezekiel's wife is struck dead by the Lord, and a woman who has expressed a love for me goes to Florida for a funeral (even as an uncle of my own rests in a hospital). I also learn of the death of a fellow tutor today - a good man, a sudden death.

Sometimes our reaction to death can be, unintentionally, cold - we don't know how to react, how to feel. But I was surprised today by my expressions of sorrow, which, though not perfect, did possess sincerity, and understanding. (Perhaps I can learn compassion.)

In death all is taken from us; this world does disappear, and is no more. Jesus' call is just so - to be dead to this world, to give all you have and count it as nothing... and so to find perfection, and so find freedom.

Let your sword of sacrifice sink deep into me, Lord.  
Take my very life today and renew me from the inside.  
(And bless those who have died.)

## August 20

Death and life are in the Lord's hands.  
The Lord kills, He destroys, and He raises up again.  
As He wills, so He does.

Though a man die, He might rise again in the Lord.  
Death is no end to the Lord, to whom this is as nothing;  
and so, those in Him have hope even beyond death if they  
have hope in Him.

A day at the beach and the boardwalk. And at Seaside  
Heights I find myself reminiscing about the joyful  
moments of childhood and adolescence I spent in this  
paradise. And I feel the joy within myself anew.

I am reminded of a line from a Springsteen song:  
"Everything dies, baby, that's a fact;  
But maybe everything that dies someday comes back."  
*(Atlantic City)*

O Lord, return to me the joy of childhood,  
by the joy of your call.  
Resurrect that within me which is beautiful,  
which is transcendent.

## August 21

"I myself will search for my sheep..."

I am overwhelmed with the realization that Jesus is the Son of God, is the WORD made flesh, is God Himself who has come to shepherd His sheep.

It is indeed overwhelming to think of what God has done for us - that He has walked amongst us; that He has laid down His life; that He gives Himself to us each day in the Eucharist... Yes, I am overwhelmed to think how humble is our God, how wonderful - and how unworthy I am. What can we do but weep?

And we must be true shepherds ourselves - not only the priests, but we as well.

And I am comforted by a word from the Lord that He will always be with us, to the end of the age; and He shall never take the Eucharist away from me. Though the shepherds of this country turn away, the Lord shall always provide a place, and hands for consecration.

O Lord, your gift is too great for our mortal minds  
to comprehend.

Your love is overwhelming.

How can we love you in return?

Thank you for your shepherds at all hours of the day.

## August 22

Why is the end of the world suddenly upon me?  
And have I a wedding garment? Where is my purity?

My soul is cut deeply upon reading some of my *Songs for Children of Light* and recalling the inspiration I had then, the creativity I was immersed in, and my own purity - the hand of God was upon me. And now? Does the sword of truth cut as deeply in my work and in my life?

The end is very near - one way or another. And in my life there is death on the news; lightning cancelling a football game; the end of the Middle Ages; high school graduates; the dying of a friend's father; and bicycle crashes...

We float through life in Christ, indestructible: "We are because we are because we are..." The Blessed Mother waits in heaven with a golden crown. The Eucharist sustains our joy. We must dance with Christ in the miracle of life.

Abortion notwithstanding (there shall be a reckoning), the Lord does write His Name upon our hearts. Born again, and again today, we must find our way to those heavenly gates.

Take not thy Holy Spirit from me, Lord.  
May it increase your yield in me.  
By your grace bring me life and purity.  
Renew my soul, O Lord. Renew my soul.

## August 23

"Can these bones live?"

Yes, I believe they can. Approaching this reading this morning, I can see the bones coming together; I know the power of the Lord.

And this faith stems from my own resurrection: the Lord blessed me anew with His inspiration. I not only recall the inspiration I had some ten years ago - I live it again last night and this morning as the Lord pierces my soul with writing anew, His hand strong upon me.

I write well past my bedtime and sleep few hours (then wake and write again) - and this food gives me strength today. I can rediscover the newness of the Lord, the kingdom of God at hand - I must need apply myself.

And at the cemetery there is peace.

Breathe on me, Holy One.  
Grant me again the intensity of discipleship I once knew.

And renew your Church, O Lord.  
May its practices and sacraments be filled with life.  
May there be verve in this old form.  
The fervor of reformation must course through the veins  
of your anointed ones.

(And the greatest commandment is spoken,  
calling me back to the source of my writing.)

## August 24

The apostles serve as the foundation of the walls of the kingdom - walls which protect what is within and prohibit that which is without. And he who enters not by the door is a thief and a robber.

Reading about the Reformation and the revolts against the Church... how man would take his destiny in his own hands, and so bring ruin.

Luther speaks so highly of the God of the cross and yet is unable to bear the cross of a corrupt pontiff, instead choosing to build his own God of glory. He decries the insufficiency of reason, and yet it is by his lack of reason he fails to foresee the consequences of his rash actions.

And so each man interprets Scripture of himself, and no one (but himself) is there to judge; for the hierarchy should be built not on the Word of God breathed upon the apostles, but on the vote (the will) of the majority. How the devil does frolic.

O Lord, instill obedience in your remaining children.  
Thank you for the blessed men you called forth,  
    who were made your ambassadors by your Word  
    and not by anything they'd done.

In Nathaniel was no guile;  
    may we all seek you with such pure hearts.

## August 25

Confirmation of yesterday's entry: Peter is the Rock upon which Christ builds His Church because his wisdom comes from God alone - his faith is genuine - and so He gives him the keys to the kingdom. (By Peter we may open the door which is Christ and so come unto the Father.)

Peter is the peg set permanently in place by Christ. And it's not that we will it to be so; it *is* so. As Christ has come for all, so Peter is gatekeeper for all. It is so willed by the mind of God, not the mind of man. It is not for us to dispute with His ways which are inscrutable; it is for us to be obedient to His Word.

O Lord, thank you that our current pope is a worthy servant;  
may all your laborers in the field  
be so faithful.

Help him, Lord, with the weight of division he must carry.  
Make us one on earth, as in heaven.

## August 26

The Lord blesses me with a full day of work on my art.  
I pray I shall never be hypocritical or proud about what  
I accomplish but remember that the Lord reigns above my  
art and above me - that I might hear His words of  
commendation on His day.

Praise you, Lord, for your gifts.  
You sustain us with your Spirit  
to fulfill our work and your will.

Amen.



## August 27

Special gospel today for memorial of Saint Monica - Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain from the dead. Very appropriate, for Monica's own son, Augustine, was raised from the death of dissolute living through her prayers.

And I myself, who can relate to Augustine's former life as similar to my own, remain in need of raising from the death of sin. Though much of what held me in the delinquent life has long been removed, yet there linger elements of sinfulness and doubt which need conquering before I could stand with the just on judgment day. And though progress is perceivable, yet it sometimes seems so slow, like walking in mud.

After yesterday's hard work and accomplishments (had a dream last night of continually catching large fish), a laziness and a directionless attitude settle in again.

O Lord, why do I continue so blind?  
Banish all darkness of doubt from me.  
Lead me on clear paths to thee.

## August 28

First reading cuts my laziness (of yesterday) to the quick. So guilty am I that I find a measure of difficulty lecturing this morning.

And inside are dead men's bones - O Lord, return to me the joy of living with you and serving you!

To guard against repeated sloth today I drive to school to type in computer lab - spend all day there. I have some difficulties and lose some work - but at least I strive. And I continue with guitar practice, etc. this evening. (I am also grateful that today is a fast day.)

There remains the question of whether I should have applied for unemployment or not - whether this is a factor undercutting my productivity. Also tend to consider this between time break time. This problem is compounded by the fact that I am poor at finding effective recreational activity...

O Lord, forgive me my sitting back and falling to sleep.  
I pray you will wake me,  
that I might serve you well in this time,  
that your will be accomplished despite my weakness.

## August 29

Memorial to John the Baptist, whose courage unto death we celebrate today.

And I am back to work today - full day - on my writing, etc. And reviewing my work of the past several years, I must say I find a treasure (though I hardly remember writing some of it). But so little of it has been proclaimed. I have been so preoccupied with additional and continuous writing, I have thought little of sharing it. (Even these days I am finishing two more short works.) But the Lord blesses me with several ideas today. May they bear fruit if He wills it. And may He give me courage to speak His words.

And appropriately enough I am denied unemployment benefits today - after all, I am employed.

Thank you, Lord, for your gifts.  
May they be shared, in strength, with others.  
Make us one in purpose with your saints.  
May they walk among us.

## August 30

The cross of the Lord is the oil that keeps wisdom's lamp shining, and prepares His children to be wed to Him, to enter into eternal life. Love it is that nourishes wisdom, and what greater love is there than to take up the cross, than to lay down your life for your neighbor.

Truly God's weakness is greater than human strength, and only in sacrifice do we find our lives. But indeed how absurd this seems to man today. And so we have broken marriages and fatherless children, because man would sooner enslave and abuse and seek his own pleasure than to love, than to take on the responsibility which comes with being a man - than to die to self and give his life for his family. And so the world is turned upside down, and so the world is out of order - for lack of love and sacrifice for others. And I know this self-centeredness is true of myself as well, and keeps me from my call.

O Lord, where has wisdom gone?  
Why does no one love the Lord  
and live the love of the cross?

Please, may I learn, O Lord.  
May I give my life in love.

## **August 31**

A blessed day, made fruitful by the Lord.

Morning confession set the tone for the day.  
(Confessed selfishness mentioned yesterday.)  
Finding absolution truly sets us free.

A blessed rosary ends in Hallelujahs for intentions  
for others, filling the church and bleeding outside.

At the soup kitchen I am blessed with conversations with  
others who may have come from the Lord to help produce  
and/or publish some of my work. And am also blessed in  
serving as a deacon with setting up a date for a parish-  
wide gathering (all nationalities included) and, finally,  
the setting of first meeting to lead toward a parish  
council.

Driving to the cemetery all the lights are with me. At  
copy store, two children ask me, separately, if I have  
taught art at their public school... And upon returning  
home I have an hour-long conversation with the children  
here on my block (first time I have taken this time).

Make me a channel of your peace, Lord.  
I know your love is within reach.  
May I always apply my talents full well.  
(I can't wait to go to church in the morning.)

## September 1

Indeed, our minds must not be conformed to this age,  
but we must sacrifice our lives; we must do the will  
of the Lord, despite the pain it brings.  
(Glory awaits us in heaven.)

And we must pray constantly, offering in voice all  
things to the Lord, for He always hears us and answers.  
Forget not; hold it not in.

The call of the Lord can be severe, and requires  
fortitude and perseverance - but die we must to self  
and our ways in order to flower in the kingdom.

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth..."  
Such is the Christian life.

O Lord, make us conquerors of all that would hinder us  
from coming to you -  
    all fear, all ignorance, all lack of faith  
    be taken away...  
    that we might in strength lay down our lives for you  
    and one another.

## September 2

Alone on a holiday, animals my only companions: the pigeons in the park, the bird on the roof, my own cat... The children say hello, but I am so alone.

O Lord, you reveal to me your presence today -  
you are the Son of God;  
you are the fulfillment of the Scriptures.

You give me a vision of you speaking;  
you let me hear your true voice.

O Lord, I pray you set this captive free  
from his prison of futility,  
free to do your will.

Yes, before your Presence I do come,  
to beg your will be done:  
If to be wed to the community - let us be as one.  
If to be wed to a woman - let us be one (for you).  
If to play my songs in weakness - let no shame come.

Amen.

## September 3

If we could focus all of our lives on the Lord, and not be ashamed... If we could put on the mind of Christ, and listen to His teachings... If we could dwell as temples of His Holy Spirit...

All other philosophy is futile; all other pursuits are vain. We must clear the dark recesses of our minds; we must cast out all uncleanness from our souls. We must serve the Lord and our neighbor; we must practice our faith - until the end.

Cast the unclean spirit from me, Lord,  
by your authority and power.  
The mind of the world take from me.

Your sword of truth pierce my soul,  
that in you I may grow.



## September 4

Indeed, "what is Paul" and "what is Apollos"? What is any man but a servant of God? It is God who does all. It is God alone we bow down to, God alone we worship - for it is He who gives growth to all we do. All is in His hands.

Was thinking this morning, even before Mass, to trust in God for my entire life. As I trust in Him for every word I write on the page, never questioning or correcting what has been written, so would I trust in Him to write every action of any day. A blessed instrument of His will let me be; let Him direct all I do and say.

Finally, have been suffering headaches of late - particularly bad this day. I pray the Lord address its source and cast it far from me.

O Lord, all power over all things resides with you.  
How marvelous it is to comprehend, to begin to understand  
how mighty thou art.  
Cast all darkness from our midst by your holy Word,  
and from our souls take all sense of pride.

## September 5

"Master, we have been hard at it all night..."  
(Yes, we struggle on our own and get nothing.)

But Jesus came and entered Peter's boat - this boat He chose of all - and graced it with a catch of men... His boat is as the ark, which shall protect us here in this flood of darkness, and carry us to that new day.

Jesus would have us all caught up into that barque. When He comes to us and enters our hearts, will we fall to our knees like Peter and confess that we are sinners and unworthy? Will we give over all wisdom shaped by human hands? Will we cease to struggle on our own in such futility?

May we all become fishers of men,  
entering into that net.

Lord, may we be overwhelmed by your presence.  
Let your hand so kindly guide and teach us,  
as it has done today.

(You know, in my car, too - as well as my writing -  
I give complete trust to the Lord.)

May your Church transport us home.

## September 6

These are indeed days of fasting, when the bridegroom is removed from our presence.

Yet the Lord sends His rain today, which He had withheld so long; and He blesses me today with added work in music and teaching, and provides extra funding for the soup kitchen.

But I do fall to the sin of judgment today - despite the reading's warning - looking upon the faults of others in anxiety... and I need the solace and peace I find before the Blessed Sacrament.

Trust in the Lord.  
He will not be long in coming.

O Lord, bring us to your kingdom new.  
Hallelujah.

## September 7

Feet and hands ache today from service to the soup kitchen.

And at the soup kitchen today are a number of youngsters, those doing confirmation service and others. I pray to the Lord that He make me a good father to them, that I take responsibility for them - especially needed considering the evils and darkness all around (and lack of parents for many). I must be a good father, a good steward, to all in my care and under my direction at the kitchen.

I also practice guitar to play at Mass tomorrow - I need the Lord's blessing and guidance here as well. And in my teaching and all I do.

We must take responsibility for the work we do and those who are affected by us.

Jesus, you are indeed Lord over all.  
Teach us to be good representatives of you,  
good fathers to all.

## September 8

"Love one another."

And today that love is expressed in gatherings wherein two or three nationalities are together in His Name: at a deanery Mass in a local park and at our prayer meeting tonight.

Oh that the Spirit would make us truly one, that the divisions would fall away - the prejudice, the fear, the ignorance, the pride. We must transcend nationality and language to find what is most important, what we all share - Jesus, and the Church.

At our prayer meeting tonight - half Spanish, half English-speakers - I do get a real sense of unity beyond these barriers. And I believe that with God, it is possible.

Lord, bless our parish; let it come together as one.  
Bless our city, country, and world.  
But most of all bless our hearts to seek such unity.  
Give us love and the ability to work together.

## September 9

Yet a little leaven does remain, a little yeast of immorality, causing me to sin in heart and mind... calling to greater growth.

And so would I stretch out my hand to the Lord, to remove all fear and heal me - to take from me at a time He desires all the sin which keeps me in any fire of hell.

O Lord, at whatever time,  
on whatever day,  
may you come and set me so free.

## September 10

To what great glory the Lord does call us (to judge even the angels!). What responsibility have we as the image of God, which is shown to us so clearly in Jesus the Son.

Visited the Statue of Liberty (and Ellis Island) today with my parents (who are in town and staying with me for the week). And Jesus is as our sign of liberty, of freedom. He calls all disciples unto Himself as a beacon of salvation. But no statue is He, but a living God - and we must be as He is.

Accept the power and responsibility which comes with being a Christian. The apostles have become the judges - as Jesus taught them - and decide who will enter the kingdom.

Be as one with the saints in heaven who have gone as pioneers before us, who are one with Jesus and His apostles.

Lord, be light unto our feet.  
Guide us in the way of the kingdom.  
Call us forth for love.

## September 11

The present form of things is passing away; therefore, be not attached to this passing world. One day passes into the next, and all pass into eternity - set your heart on your eternal reward.

Soon the Lord will come and all will be seen as it is - it will not be as it seems. For when the last are first and truth and justice abound, revelation will set all right again.

And for myself, I should seek not a wife, allow not my eyes and mind and heart to wonder and wander... No concern should I give this matter, no anxiety take my soul. What will be will be by the Lord's hand, and in His hand is eternity secure.

O Lord, may I be only as you would have me.  
Take the lie of this world from before me.  
May we be seated with thee even now.  
May our hearts be set on thee alone.



## September 12

To be as sons of the living God - to be as He is, love as He does... what honor and glory there is in sharing in the way of the Father. For He knows all things and is above all things - in eternity He dwells.

Can you rise above any situation? Can you hold your tongue and know in wisdom how to speak to bring the Lord's blessing to any exchange? Can you see things as God sees things, judge them as God judges - can you love as God, who opens His arms on the cross to all?

And know that God does love all, for none would be condemned except that they refuse the love He continually offers.

O Lord, make us more like you.  
Make real your way in our lives,  
that we might find the joy and glory  
of laying down our lives in love  
as you do.

(P.S. - Rise above race and nationality  
(and mere family ties) - love all.

And re first reading: Paul faces difficulties similar to Catholics regarding images in his eating of meat sacrificed to idols. We know there is one God and that pictures, paintings, sculptures, etc. are as nothing - but others are closer to the idol worship of pagan times.)

## September 13

Paul walks in the footsteps of His teacher -  
disciplining himself in the way of the gospel,  
laying down his life to save others.

I only wish I could say the same of myself.

I do fast today and I do say my prayers, but little else.  
I am tired. I am weak. (Perhaps entertaining my parents  
is taking a toll...)

O Lord, yet do I think too much of myself.  
Let me rise above my weakness.  
Lead me in your way,  
that in weakness I may find strength.

## September 14

Because of our sins, He came into the world - upon a cross He was fixed. But though the cross reminds us of our sinful nature, it also leads us to heaven. And so is the Church triumphant, even over death.

To the cemetery(s) today with my father. Upon my sister's grave flowers greatly bloom. And at my uncle's grave we speak of the moment all time is and what life hereafter (on that day) might be.

I accept my cross, O Lord,  
and praise you for it -  
that it may lead me to glory.

Thank you, Lord, for watching over me this day  
and blessing me with your cross and glory -  
in confession of my sins,  
in joyful service of the soup kitchen,  
and in silence before accusations of family and friend.

## September 15

How the Lord watches over us, always offering direction,  
always giving His word.

Anger and judgment were circling about me upon hearing  
this morning's reading - the Lord hears my thoughts and  
answers to them.

I was anxious about an oversight by the eucharistic  
minister. The priest had to retrieve water from the  
sanctuary, but it created a beautiful liturgical moment  
as it caused the organist to continue playing in the  
background - which he continued even as the priest  
prepared the gifts and asked the Lord's blessing.

Far above our ways are His, and I do so lack in faith and  
trust of His will. I repeatedly wish in anxiety to do by  
my own hands.

May I have faith in you, Lord.  
Banish my anxiety.  
May I trust in you  
and never judge another.

## **September 16**

The priest speaks the words of consecration over the bread and wine in the person of Jesus, and so they become His body and blood. The Lord needs but to speak for it to be.

And so today I pray His body and blood increase within me His holiness, that by my daily reception of the Eucharist I come ever closer to Him. For I am ignorant, I know not what I do, and I need the blessing of wisdom which comes only from Him.

May we worthily receive thee, Lord.  
We are but sinners;  
say the word and I shall be healed.

## **September 17**

Rain today. The husband of a good friend dies;  
and yesterday my parents left, so I am again alone.  
A time of sadness.

But there is hope of resurrection from the dead, and a  
life of joy returns again... even as the son of the widow  
of Nain is brought back to life. So the darkness of this  
world and the sinfulness of our souls is overcome by the  
power of the Lord.

Make us one, O Lord,  
one in the joy of your presence.  
This world we can rise above.

## September 18

There is a guitar, and there is singing.  
And there are also tears.  
There is unity and there is division,  
and there is a place for both of these.

More rain, and the wake for the husband of a close  
friend. A guitar of flowers and the man's songs are  
heard on tape... But mostly there is sadness. (What  
love must encompass... and the fruits of compassion.)

And at school we make melody to the Lord in two languages  
- and what of the love that appears to be...?

Who can comprehend the balance inherent in the two hands  
of the Lord? This wisdom is wrought in love.

(And we must reschedule our parish celebration,  
but there is hope it shall well be.)

O Lord, who can fathom the depths of your ways?  
Let us but accept the workings of your Spirit.  
This is love:  
that we surrender our lives to your will.

## September 19

Jesus is our Savior. He has come to forgive our sins.  
But will we turn to Him? Will we let Him in, to dwell  
under our roof?

I must prepare a place for Him - I am so unworthy.  
He comes to where I am as I partake of the Eucharist,  
though far short do I fall of appreciating Him.

And we must be welcoming of others as well, welcoming  
of all. We must offer a place at our table to all the  
Lord's seeking souls.

O Lord, I am so sinful.  
O Savior, you know my thoughts.  
You know how dark and distracted they are;  
    may the Spirit cleanse and make them whole.  
    (That I may go out and preach your Word.)



## September 20

New Life is calling. I hear it in my heart.  
The Spirit's voice calls us to greater commitment  
to Christ - to live as one as His disciples.

Anniversary celebration of charismatic prayer group.  
Though no longer an active member of the prayer group  
proper, yet I know the call of the Spirit.

Jesus is risen from the dead, and if we knew this fully,  
we would do as the disciples and the women who followed  
the Lord - we would give *all* we have, and our lives, to  
be with Him. We would live as one as the early  
Christians.

The Lord is calling us to ever greater commitment to His  
Word, and ever closer to Him may we come.

Though I work tirelessly today, I have more to do.  
Let us worship and bow down before Him.

Lord, lead us to New Life.

## September 21

After confession, on my knees before the Blessed Sacrament - on the hard, stone floor... there is a suffering that is redemptive.

Yes, there is a suffering that destroys, and a suffering that enlivens - a pain that breaks down, and a pain that purges.

And this is a pain that redeems my soul, a pain that makes me aware of the truth of my sinful nature. And in it is forgiveness, is penance. And rising from my knees, I am filled with joy. (And my legs are strong.)

We are all of us sinners - we are 'united' thereby. None can look down on another. We are all of us redeemed by Jesus and brought to the Father - one in the Spirit let us be.

Lord, I am a sinner;  
grant me your divine mercy.  
Make me one with my brothers and sisters,  
and so transcend myself.

## September 22

Baptize us, Lord. Make us new. Let our thoughts  
be conformed to you. May we rise above our minds,  
to your heavenly places.

Let your waters wash over our heads and over our lands.  
Cleanse us and make us whole.

Take the fighting from us. Remove all anger  
and bloodshed. Let forgiveness take its place;  
let love abound among all.

In your vineyard let us toil, in peace and freedom.

(Reading thoughts of patients in nursing home;  
witnessing bloodshed of wars on American plains.  
O to rid myself of own evil thinking;  
O that all could find forgiveness.)

And the suffering of a widowed friend...  
we must remain faithful until the end.  
And in the beginning we are baptized;  
as rain falls outside, inside the church  
new life is come.)

## September 23

"Light your lamp. Light your eyes.  
Find the light that shines  
even in the darkness."

And find a lampstand upon which to place your light,  
that it might shine forth for all to see.

In prayer this morning, and this evening, the lamp of  
my mind is lit as I speak God's Name in silence. His  
Word is as a sword piercing my mind, bleeding away all  
the darkness.

A lampstand I have been seeking for some time -  
a podium from which to proclaim His Word,  
a means to express the gifts He's given me.

You are a lamp of God, a child of light -  
shine your light forth,  
speak His word in truth.

O Lord, show me the way,  
open the path before me -  
how might I work for thee?  
I know my current path falls short:  
take it from me,  
and bring me to your place.  
Set me on a lampstand for you.

## September 24

Do you hear the word of God?  
And do you act upon it?

In silence the word of God is heard.

I had quite forgotten silence. I had quite neglected to be simple and still. So anxiously rushing from prayer to prayer, from work to work, often we must stop ourselves - we must slow down and take time to be quiet. And today before each shrine, I simply stood in silence.

Silence is the source of wisdom; as it is the source of humility, and patience, and truth... In silence you will hear God's word.

And in hearing there is a doing, but the doing must be complete. Yet do I wait to find fulfillment.

Act upon me, O Lord.  
May I be the subject of your passion.  
We are all in your hands,  
    not knowing what may come next -  
    let it be your will alone,  
    and let us align our lives with it.

(We must confirm God's perfect will  
by our participation.)

## September 25

Send me forth, O Lord, without a concern  
for anything of this world.

My prayer this morning, before Mass, was that the Lord  
take from me any teaching work I do not need, to take  
from me any greed - especially with regard to a class  
I had lost, then regained.

In tutoring a single (ESL) student this afternoon, for  
some three hours, a particular subject of conversation  
was the salary of her husband, their debt, and my own  
income. She desired designer clothes; I witnessed to  
the fact that most of my clothes, and other possessions,  
were gifts, or bought at discount.

Finally, there is yet the lingering of a lying tongue  
I've found in complaints against supervisors of late -  
yet must my tongue be restrained...

O Lord, give me only what I need.  
Let me trust in thee for all things,  
and I shall want for nothing.  
And if I love, I know all fear will flee,  
and I shall not be found in want of honesty.

## September 26

"Is this something new?" Herod must have asked himself.  
"Perhaps he will dance for me."

But the vanity of men whose hearts are lashed to this world can see nothing more than the emptiness so evident to Solomon, who had wasted his life in futile pursuits. And we would be in the same place as they, were it not for Jesus.

Behold, He makes all things new! Jesus it is. "Jesus," the voice of the Spirit whispers to us, calling our hearts to His cross. The name of Jesus is shouted from rooftops by angels and saints whose knees bow before Him.

But Herod could not bow; he could only mock.  
For he had gained the whole world, but lost his soul.

And so must we be on guard,  
for these lions lurk for our souls.

O Lord, may I live the new life born in you  
and borne by your cross.  
Bless all that I do under the sun;  
only by you does anything have life.

## September 27

There is a time for everything, and the Lord has seen that I accomplish my work today (despite threatening sickness).

Tonight I made a return to the prayer group, giving a teaching and feeling more a part of things for the first time in a while. I know not what the hand of the Lord will do, but I feel more open to His will. I become ready to accept His cross.

Lord, may I walk quietly with you,  
doing your will in all things  
and offering my life to others.

Holy Spirit, I thank you for your grace.  
Jesus, I pray you will always be with me.



## September 28

Yes, human life is vanity - it leads to nothing of itself. And though Jesus had all power over the emptiness of our mortal existence, He subjected Himself to it nonetheless. He gave Himself over to sin and death to redeem us from the grave.

How my feet and hands do ache this day, after especially lengthy and persistent service at the soup kitchen - I do not stop moving for some five hours. My legs become too tired to stand. Yet all of this would be vanity were Jesus not there.

And I feel the Spirit minister to me on this windy day. As I lay in my bed, the Lord answers my prayers - I hear Him speak to me. The Spirit consoles me and leads my soul to wholesomeness, to purity by His words of truth. (Jesus *is* there whenever we call upon Him.)

Let it be so, O Lord,  
    that my life be renewed by your Spirit.  
Let it be so,  
    that I be so obedient to your will.  
Let it be so,  
    that the Spirit of Truth have full effect upon me.

Take my life...  
Do prepare my heart for marriage, Lord.

## September 29

Humble yourself in any congregation. Set your heart on and identify with the humblest among you, and you shall be set so free. If the weakest link is strengthened, how strong is the chain. Humble is the Lord and, so, exalted.

I believe the Lord is taking wickedness from my life. I believe increasingly that I can set my heart on and find greater purity - as a child. I believe that even sin shall not distract me from this call. I need but lay down my life, and He will lift me up.

And before the statue of the Blessed Virgin, outside of church this morning - the streets were so quiet and the air was so pure from last night's rain, my "Hail Mary" seemed to echo in the sky.

Call us so clearly, Lord.  
Let us walk with you.

## **September 30**

Satan certainly did not humble himself as a child.

But Job is not read on this the memorial of St. Jerome.  
Today we celebrate the Scriptures and the value of its  
instruction.

And in the Scriptures and other sources I read of the  
unity of the Church today - there is but one Church,  
and its members are known by their humble fruits.

Lord, give us your Word.  
May we teach and preach  
with the power of your Spirit.

May knowledge of your salvation go forth  
to the ends of the earth.

## October 1

The simple faith of St. Therese (of Lisieux) helps make real the presence of Christ for me today. Jesus is present even in menial tasks, in all things, if we offer them to Him in love. (The simple joy of this child seems to have been tremendous.)

Special readings today - again, turn and become as a child, and you will find the blessings of the New Jerusalem; you will be taken as a virgin bride into the bedchamber of the Lord of all - you will become as His wife.

The marriage feast of the holy innocent awaits us all. And what joy we shall find there. (All for Jesus.)

Jesus, I sense the wedding banquet upon me -  
direct my heart along paths to you.  
You are the bridegroom of my soul.

A child awaits your coming;  
leave her not alone.

## October 2

On this blessed day, the feast of the Guardian Angels, the angels do indeed watch over me and keep me from temptation; they guard me from the evil spirits (better than a ton of garlic - which a brother offers to the soup kitchen first thing this morning).

And today the humble child is again presented to us, he whose angel continually beholds the face of God. Whatever age we get to be, and I am aging, yet we are children of God. I know I must discover and maintain that innocence which keeps us always in God's stead. (Angels are watching over us. Find the child inside.)

There's an angel by my side at all times  
(however many gray hairs I get).

Watch over us always, dear Lord;  
let your angels be with us.  
May our eyes be open to their presence.

(Bless my sister this special day, dear Lord -  
may as an angel she ever be.)

## October 3

Two by two the disciples are sent forth by the Lord.  
And today the pastor calls two of us to a meeting for  
a pastoral council; and now we are to call two others.  
I pray our proclamation of the Gospel be as effective.

Through all that occurs in our lives, the Lord is with  
us, and we shall see His face. And what Job longed for  
is become real in the presence of Jesus. And we are  
called to the bringing of that light to the world.

And I know not how to pray for my sister's impending  
marriage (not in the church) - I can only pray it be  
blessed by God.

O Lord, lead us out of the darkness all around us  
into the bright light of your presence.  
Let your blessed protection be with us,  
and let us do your will on this earth.

## October 4

Feast day of St. Francis, and St. Paul tells us he bears the marks of Christ in his body, and reveals the paradox of boasting in the humility of the Lord.

Today the Lord teaches me the lesson of humility and how it is His cross which leads to life. Identifying with and bearing the shortcomings of the humble creatures around me, I sense the marks of Christ, who humbled himself to come into our presence.

But before discovering this bleeding humility, the Lord let my soul fall on a few occasions to anger, pride, and condemnation. This He did that at the end of the day I might taste the truth and the redemptive weight of humility.

O Lord, bless all your children -  
    may we humble ourselves as the least among us,  
    that when your Spirit comes we might be exalted.

## October 5

In the courtyard of the church this day, a pigeon limps in circles, unable to fly. And today my sister, whose name means 'dove', and who has an injured knee, flies to Tennessee to marry a military man in a civil ceremony. Her mother knows it not, and I fear it is all rather sudden...

I do not know, nor do I understand, the will of God - though I see these things, my eyes are closed. I can only pray this bird will enter the church doors and fly with Jesus.

O Lord, let us rejoice to be in your presence.  
Let me not remain in ignorance and fear,  
    but let me accept and understand your will.

Open my eyes that I might see,  
    and so leave all things to thee.



## October 6

Into the hands of Peter the keys were placed. From the grasp of the chief priests and into this fisherman's hands. And those hands which feed the Lord's sheep would be stretched out, taken, and crucified.

And in this day we have a follower of Peter, a follower of Jesus, to lead us - a pope who leads us well, who leads us in truth, in the Spirit. And we celebrate the laying down of his life.

But we are all called, and we must all give witness; we must all shepherd well those who are put before us, and not turn away from that cross. For we are not far from our graves, and what shall we say on that day when we give account of our lives.

Have we borne good fruit?  
We have all we need to do so.

O Lord, we pray you lead us and remain with us,  
as in this world we bring your word forth.  
We thank you for those who go before us to shepherd us,  
and we pray we shall shepherd well those behind.

## October 7

There is but one true gospel, and its promise is eternal.  
And its promise is founded in love. The Lord loves all  
and lays down His life for all, and we must do the same.

Veer not from the path set before you. The covenant  
is written in stone. Moreover, it is written upon the  
hearts of all His disciples, and leads them to the life  
that is love.

Jesus loves. Turn not away from His call.

O Lord, may all be gathered as one  
under your true gospel -  
Jews, Christians, Muslims, and all...  
may all be one in thee.

(Jesus leads us there.)

## October 8

Tutoring is slow today, and so another tutor and I have time to sit and converse. We speak of our own conversions.

Always we must sit at the feet of the Lord, whether at work or at leisure. And always must we draw closer to Him and proclaim His holy wisdom.

Lord of our lives, take us unto thee -  
    may we sit with you through eternity.  
Through the rains of this world  
    bring us unto your presence.

## October 9

Of late I have been hearing instruction regarding the universality of God's Church: not only in the Catholic Church does the Spirit dwell, but in all souls of light. And far from diminishing the strength of my Catholic faith, it serves only to open my catholic arms to all brothers and sisters - thus solidifying Christ's openness in my heart.

But yet do I need to learn to pray; yet do I need an increase in faith, both to found my soul in the wisdom and understanding of the Lord, and in a purity of heart.

Where can we go but to you, Lord?  
You are the source of the truth of our work  
and our words.

Purge us of ignorance and pride,  
and purify our very souls.  
"We ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us."

## October 10

We must seek the Spirit, and it will be given us. If we desire answer to our questions, we must bring them before the Lord, out into the light - and our troubled hearts will be quelled by truth.

But if we desire not truth; if we wish to remain as we are, as we would be, in sin and weakness - so shall it be. As we seek, we find.

Bring your petition before the Lord. Bare your soul unto Him, and He will quickly answer. If in the Spirit you come to Him, the truth will make you free.

A dictionary is sign and symbol for me this day, as by way of it He gives me words to reveal my sinful nature - confirming a message of yesterday - and suggests my call in life.

May my mouth be silent in dust  
rather than speak foolishly.  
May my eyes be closed to temptation.  
Let the Spirit rule my way.

## October 11

Faith. Faith it is which leads us forth to the promised land. If we follow not where faith leads, if we believe not in Jesus, we are lost.

My faith is weak. And my eyes are blind to its call. I seek without finding, for I seek not well direction for my life.

The trappings of this world do weigh me down. My own imagination betrays me. I am unsure of what to do: I have not faith.

Yet do I pray for that ray of light to come to me. Yet do I pray for God's holy word. Yet do I pray my mind be clear, and the Lord touch and heal me.

But I have not faith.

O Lord, may I never scatter or lead astray  
anyone - including myself.  
May faith find its place in me,  
and so may my soul be redeemed by thee.

## October 12

Imprisoned under the watchful eye of the law, in  
confession I find a release. Freedom and joy fill the  
acts I perform this day, as I hear and accomplish what  
the Lord directs me to. But yet there is not perfection.

Yet sin does call to me within; yet my faith is not  
complete - yet I am weak. And the law does tempt me  
with condemnation.

I know I am of Jesus. I know I shall be free.  
But yet I am incomplete.

I need to come to the place set aside for me.

Where you would lead me I know not, Lord.  
I follow your voice and make plans with you,  
but far short of your will do I fall.

There is a word that goes forth from your throne;  
let me hear and obey.

## October 13

It is appropriate the Lord use a wedding banquet as analogy for the kingdom, for in sacred vows of marriage and in living of love according to His will is the foretaste of heaven, is the model for the heavenly kingdom.

And we shall rejoice on that day; we shall feast sumptuously; we shall be unashamed, for the purity of the Lord shall reign.

And in our church this weekend is great celebration in the Lord - joy at the soup kitchen and a confirmants' retreat Saturday, a triduum to our Mother three days, CCD and Communion class in two languages, Philippine Mass, prayer meetings and weddings and baptisms... There is joy in the house of the Lord.

Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done, Lord.  
May we be so ready to rejoice in you.

Hallelujah!



## October 14

As a sign the Lord has given me His holy Name: YHWH.  
He has allowed me to know this silent WORD, expressive  
of the transcendent God. By it, in its breath, I know  
the light of God.

And this I may know at any time and in any place - at any  
moment... for it takes but a moment to adore Him thus.  
Before the Blessed Sacrament and in all conscious prayer,  
the silent Name is with me.

And the miracle is, of course, Jesus is the WORD made  
flesh. So that the transcendent has become real for us.  
That which is beyond expression (though in every breath we  
take) walks among us.

O Lord, make us children of your Word;  
may we remember your Name  
and dwell in your presence forever -  
as does your only Son.

## October 15

In our prayerful groanings, the Spirit ministers unto us. This is a speaking in tongues. Hereby we find the means to cleanse the inside of the cup.

The way of perfection we all must walk is a narrow path to light... but our hope does lead us forth. Still we believe.

We have no money to pay the Lord - life is but a gift of God. All we have it comes from Him; let us share it with our neighbor.

Lord, we cannot say a thing nor do a thing;  
only by your blessing do we live and communicate.  
Remain with us till the end,  
when contemplation of your face will be eternal.

## October 16

How does a good man walk?

It is eminently clear the difference between the good and the wicked - their paths are utterly opposed to one another. The fruit of the Spirit has nothing to do with the works of the flesh. And so the good man lives according to the Spirit's fruit.

I pray and offer my day to the Lord. These days He seems to answer the prayers I offer, the fleeces I put before Him. His hand of guidance seems sure in my day. I say 'seems' because my heart is not as clear as His voice. But I do find His righteousness.

I love you, Lord, and praise your name.  
I offer my mind to thee.  
May my life be in your hands;  
    mold me as your son.

(P.S. Jesus is the good man.)

## October 17

Wisdom and knowledge are from the Lord; it is He who guides us. Do we hear well His voice calling us? Do we know thoroughly the redemption of our souls in His blood?

We have sinned. We must be held accountable. But Jesus pays the price for the blood we've shed by the sacrifice of His own blood.

We must be children of this wisdom, sons and daughters of the promise - acceptant of salvation. Jesus is our salvation and His word is irrefutable, for He has laid down even His own life - even for those envious lawyers, and us - and no one can argue with such perfect sacrifice, such perfect love.

(And I hear a call, a word, from the Lord today -  
I pray it may be true.)

O Lord, wash us clean in your pure blood.  
Cleanse us and make us whole by your Word.  
May heavenly wisdom reign upon us.

## October 18

You cannot do the work of the Lord if your heart is set on things of this world. And so Paul allows those who are so distracted to go; he does not call them back. (If your peace returns to you, you must leave that house.)

And so, Paul is very much alone.

And so are we all very much alone in doing the work of the Lord; as lambs in the midst of wolves are we sent forth. The world is an evil place. There is darkness all around, and its allure will quickly drag you down.

Against my better judgment, I attend a performance of *Carmen* tonight at a local college. At the theatre and on the campus, I am reminded of my dark days as I look around and see so many so lost.

The harvest is indeed plentiful.

What darkness is in the world, Lord.  
How difficult to overcome.  
Send me forth only with your guard,  
else I shall fall as well.

## October 19

On this darkest of days - when day is as night - on this feast of the patron saint of our church, St. Paul of the Cross, the Lord has a special word for me.

Considering this feast day and St. Paul's kind commendation of the Ephesians, and juxtaposing it with my wayward wandering into the dark world of theatre and college life last night - reminding me of the darkness which I've escaped - I felt as the Prodigal Son returning home this morning, and the Lord confirms to me that here is my family.

And after Mass, while saying the rosary I walked around the church, which was empty and dark, moving up and down each aisle - offering this blessing:

May the Lord resurrect us from darkness and bring us into His light. May His Spirit descend upon us and His blessed mother pray for us - that we might be people founded in love, as the holy body of the Lord of all, Jesus Christ.

O Lord, your body let us be;  
let us be confirmed in thee.  
We are your people,  
the sheep of your flock.

## October 20

Another commendation of a Church by St. Paul.

And this morning I find an overwhelming sense of the faith of God's Catholic Church, how it is His bride, how He has left it with us till the end of the age - His sacraments, priests, laws... His divine guidance for our time on earth. And I cry tears of pity for those who are "homeless", who are outside Holy Mother Church.

And even though it is early this morning, the songs thunder to God, in praise of His glory, and we are one in His Name.

Give God the glory due His Name.  
Join together in holy prayer and praise,  
for He is worthy and does bless us.

All is in your hands, O Lord -  
do bless us, we pray.  
Thank you for your gift of guidance;  
thank you for our home on earth,  
that you have not left us alone.

## October 21

We have all of us been lifted from sin by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Praise His Name!) All of us had sinned and been led astray into that land of exile. And all of us have been brought back home by the hand of God.

All is in His will. All is by His power. Our life is a gift, and our redemption is a gift. All that is ours is the sin.

I pray today to the angels to cleanse me thoroughly, to clear my mind completely, to utterly break my pride. I yield to them and their work, become clearly aware of their presence - holier than any human - and pray they make me a blessed, whole instrument for God.

And I do believe it could be so;  
I see and feel their effects.

Angels of God, fly about us and work upon us -  
carry us in your arms;  
lift us from this sphere.



## October 22

Ready and waiting today. Loins girded, lamps burning...  
approaching marriage to the Lord. As man and wife are  
made one, as Jew and Gentile are made one, so are we  
made one with God.

Imagine that. Imagine being one with God, married to  
God - no separation. The thought of it overwhelms me  
with mystical wonder this day.

And I think: all good I've done is not of me but of the  
Lord - I have done nothing. And, too, I abandon my sin  
as well - maintaining no possession of it - and the Lord  
takes all of it away. And I am ready, for I am only of  
Him.

Jesus, may we be wed to thee,  
and thy blessed eternity.  
Though in the grave we may soon rest,  
hold us up to thy holy breast.

(And in the Eucharist we already become one with Him.)

## **October 23**

To what are we called?  
What have we been given?

It is given to Peter to lead the Church,  
to feed the sheep of Christ.  
It is given to Paul to preach the Word to all nations.

What is your gift?

O Lord, let me do with what I have been given.

## October 24

How great is the love of the Lord. How expansive.  
It shines more widely than the sun, and burns more  
brightly. His love is upon everyone.

And the Lord gives me a smile today, a smile of joy.  
And the Lord gives me a heart for suffering today,  
a heart of pathos. And there is no irreconciliation  
between the two.

But despite the beauty of both, the blessings they are  
from the Lord - I am left quite alone. For the pathos  
sinks deeply in... perhaps more deeply than a ruptured  
appendix or a concussion. The suffering of Christ is  
throughout all. And the joy, too, must transcend all  
things, and remain when even abandoned.

Lord of all, we bow before thee.  
Though this life is one of suffering,  
    it does not deter our spirit  
    from love of you.  
From birth till death you are with us, Lord.

## October 25

The color red (and also burgundy) had continually recurred in my life for the past week. It was a motif I could not comprehend. It seemed to signify love in my vain seeking of a female counterpart, but yet there was ever uncertainty and question about why I would see it...

During Confirmation this night the significance became clear as I realized the Lord's call to be wed to the Holy Spirit - the greatest of marriages. All other 'loves' pale in comparison to the love of the Lord.

And tonight I have the honor of sponsoring someone for the first time - a girl from the neighborhood whom I see at the soup kitchen and around the church...  
May God bless her and all His children.

Lord, may your love fill all their lives.  
May they accept your call to the cross  
and life eternal.

(P.S. Insight into Scripture - gospel today suggests purgatory (paying 'last penny') for those who do not reconcile here. May be contrasted with Peter's angelic release from prison in Acts...  
he who holds keys to heavenly gates. Prayed in Confession for grace to pay for sins along the way.)

## October 26

Talking to my sister at her grave this afternoon - one in spirit we are. Talking to my sister (adopted) on the phone as the Yankees win the World Series - one are all God's children. Then speaking with my brother, the Yankee fan, after the game.

Here I see men using their gifts, humbly and strongly. Here I see athletes giving thanks to Jesus for the blessings they receive, falling to their knees upon victory... as it should be.

The Lord gifts us all greatly; truly all things are possible with faith in Him. Bring your gifts into the Light.

Played a song at the soup kitchen today, a song I'd written but was rearranged by a musician friend - now it is a song.

O Lord, cut me not off at the root.  
Let me grow in you; let my gifts flower.  
Shine your light of blessing upon this world.  
May all be done in your name.

(There is hope - on the day we celebrate the Mother of hope, on the day I practice her song... on this day in October the sun shines and the flowers grow, as I add a little more water.)

## October 27

Turning the corner on wisdom - there is no greater sadness than betrayal by a friend. But learning truth is always a comfort to the seeking soul. And as a friend's father is quoted: "Better they do it to you than you do it to them." Amen.

The circle is being completed and we are approaching paradise - the walls are being set in place. Once those walls were walls of lies in my life, as my father then wisely told me. Now the walls are walls of peace in the freedom of this enclosed park where the Spirit of Truth breathes life.

(A bagel, I think, can be a symbol of this enclosed paradise, and I eat three of them today. And in the sky it is written: "Bagels are coming..." Poetry flows through all our lives.)

And discussing wisdom with a friend, re his father, and speaking of my father and to my father today - it is clear God (Jesus) speaks in parables, for each must open his eyes and listen to be wise.

O Lord, you give us the greatest commandment today,  
and that which is like unto it.  
May we be like unto thee, Father of all;  
may your word of truth be written on our hearts.

Teach me, too, Lord, to be generous of heart,  
and, particularly, to tithe -  
for in this do we not love God and neighbor?

## **October 28**

We are all called forth. We are all called forth  
to live as disciples of the Lord.

The Lord puts a song in my heart.  
Will he see that song sung before men?

Let your Word go forth to the ends of the earth, O Lord.

## October 29

This month has been wrought in the theme of marriage; what it means and where it leads I do not know.

I know the Lord is calling me into greater communion with Him, with His Spirit. It is the form of this marriage of which I am uncertain.

I seem to be making some strides toward the possible production of my music and maybe even my writings, but 'seems' is certainly the operative word. It is also the operative word in consideration of movement toward marriage to a woman.

However, as long as I keep my heart set on Jesus and remain in prayer, offering all to His Spirit, all will be well - and I will move closer to the wedding banquet that matters: the feast with the angels and saints in the heavenly Jerusalem.

Guide me, Lord, to your table.  
May all I do here lead to your wedding feast.  
Let us be prepared by love.



## October 30

Here we have the narrow door, if we would step through it. All we do is a window to heaven, if done in the Lord's name. In the simplest tasks and most basic relationships we may find Jesus, and, so, His kingdom.

Yes, we walk there now; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And if we are true to this world, we shall find our inheritance in the next. (We can already know it.)

And I am convicted, for yesterday in boredom I wasted time and developed a headache at work. It is so that when I am duly occupied in offering all service to God, He is with me. When I go through the motions of work - I am lost.

Strength for all tasks comes from the Lord and leads to Him.

Let us remember you in all things, Lord,  
and we shall be in heaven.

(Daily Mass, weekly confession, the Prayer of the Church,  
and fasting on bread and water...  
prayer meetings, soup kitchen serving,  
and time before the Blessed Sacrament -  
all these help keep me on the narrow path,  
but are worthless if done without sincerity.)

Now I lay me down to sleep  
upon this wooden floor (with cushions);  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep  
and bring it to His door.)

## October 31

Jesus does battle unto death,  
never turning from the fray.

And the armor I wear today takes the form of a brown scapular. Recently given me, I've been wearing it regularly, but usually underneath my clothes.

It is warm at work today, so I remove my sweater. I do not tuck the scapular under my shirt but leave it for all to see. Many remark and inquire. I find a security and sense of evangelical satisfaction in wearing it.  
(Perhaps particularly needed to ward off whatever evil might be about this Halloween.)

Be our source of strength, O Lord.  
May we dwell in your Word and so find protection.  
May we openly declare your Name.

Guard us as we cross into tomorrow.

## November 1

White (as this page). For He is pure.  
White as snow. (And cold as it was today, it might have.)  
The saints in heaven have found purity,  
    have found their white robes.

And blessed is the persecution we face for Jesus' sake,  
for it brings us to perfection, it brings us to heaven.  
The mockery is but small, and we must love the scoffer,  
to bring him to the kingdom. For Jesus has laid down His  
life for us, He has taken our place in death (for sin),  
and His demonstration of love must be mirrored by all His  
children. Unto death we must walk in others' shoes.

This is love, and the saints embody this love, this  
sacrifice of self for God and neighbor. And so they  
find heaven.

Thank you, Lord, for the beautiful teaching  
    by our priest this night.  
Thank you for the opportunity to speak your word.  
Thank you for the suffering we face  
    and for your grace  
    which leads us unto heaven.

Praise your Name!

(And bless our pope on this the anniversary  
    of his ordination.  
    May your Spirit always guide the Church.)

## November 2

Let it be inscribed in a book:  
the Lord lives, and we shall see His face.

Though sometimes the world seems unbearable,  
yet love reigns and redeems our soul...  
And the evangelizing voice goes out to the ends of the earth,  
and brings the waiting soul into heaven.

O Lord, you never leave us;  
let us never be separated from you.  
Let thy will be done in our lives,  
and bring us into Life.

## November 3

There is but one God and Father of all, and one Lord,  
Jesus Christ, who instructs all. We are but humble  
servants beneath His holy hand, striving to overcome our  
imperfections and become one with Him in the holy land.

We are but human, and do but serve the Lord. He is above  
us all. All is in His hands; give glory to Him, you who  
pale in imitation, whose dark and grained spots need yet  
to be ironed out. Serve Him humbly, as a child; as a  
newborn babe, be molded by His hands.

Yet the love of the Lord is not far from you;  
it is offered now in eternal grace.

Thank you, Lord, for your kindness and mercy,  
for your forgiveness.  
You have come, the humble servant,  
and walked here in our midst.  
And so we find our way.

## November 4

Scriptures today speak clearly of the need for humility, of having to defer to others - and ultimately we must defer to God.

Two conversations/proclamations that I offered today in tutoring and in class centered precisely on the lack of this in society - of pride in self and the mind of man, and his lack of concern for God or others.

This is an age of science, and it and its unwell imagination have become religion for man. The mind is exalted above any ultimate reality. Here is the cavalier dismissal of God and any mention of His Word in Scripture. Millennia of wisdom and understanding are as nothing to the 'science' which prevails in the myths it makes. And thus nothing is sacred, and man cares for nothing - not even life in the womb.

O Lord, what woe must be upon this world,  
    ready to be revealed.  
How lost must we become  
    before we seek our way home?

Let us find humility - that we are but human.

## November 5

On this election day, though I do participate in the process, the thought of whose freedom and orderliness can bring a sense of peace... on this day which, I think, has meant a signaling of the continuance of moral breakdown for this selfish country...

My heart is really quite set on the kingdom that lasts; the Spirit breathes kindly upon me and embraces me in the WORD - and I know, it is Jesus who is my King.

Each morning I partake of the bread of the kingdom, and though I am often blind to its significance, there are moments of light, as in this morning, that I see the true kingdom coming.

The Lord is with us, brothers and sisters;  
set your hearts on His kingdom of light.

Lord, all things are in your hands;  
all nations shall stream to you.  
I trust in your providence in all things  
and set my heart on the joy of your presence with us.

## November 6

I see more and more the wickedness of this world, the evil of this generation. Jesus lived in the midst of it in the Roman Empire, and we live in much the same situation here in the United States. We live amongst the pagans, though we are to be stars in heaven.

All this world must be left behind to find the promise of heaven. Yet not in despair do we go, but in joy.

O Lord, as my eyes see more clearly the evil all around,  
bless me with your protection.  
Help us all to shine brightly in this world of darkness,  
our hearts indeed set on heaven alone.



## November 7

Nothing is left incomplete in heaven;  
and we fill up what is lacking in the sacrifice of Jesus.

The last of the chosen shall be searched out; the light  
of His Word shall reach to the ends of the earth to  
discover all His children. And we participate in this  
evangelization, in the work of the Lord. As His  
disciples, His body, we are granted the great honor of  
bringing His word forth, and of dying the death of Jesus.  
What grace God gives us in such utter participation,  
such utter oneness with the Son. All else is loss  
but the sacrifice of Christ.

Spirit, lead us forth into the world  
to carry the word of the Lord  
to the darkest corners of this world.

By your grace, the ears of all men  
shall hear of Christ,  
and those so circumcised shall enter His presence -  
where the angels rejoice.

## November 8

Paul calls upon the Philippians to imitate him, and today I begin to read *The Imitation of Christ*. We truly are citizens of heaven, and so we should act accordingly.

Though there is still sin and the day is dark, if we forgive, we find forgiveness; if we cancel others' debts, so shall it be for us.

And tonight I give a talk, reading from selections of my writings, on the death we must all die in Christ to find eternal life. We must indeed lay down our lives and die to sin.

O Lord, may we imitate you in love and sacrifice.  
Make our lives be whole in you;  
make us your children of light.

## November 9

The glory of the Lord fills the temple, and Jesus is the New Jerusalem, He is the temple - He is God. In Him we dwell; as His body we are. And so we become temples ourselves.

Defile not the temple that is your body with iniquity. Respect it and keep it whole. We must make ourselves pure (praise God for the gift of confession, and the priest's intercession) to receive Christ, to know His presence in our lives.

And what is right to do for money, in the Church and for causes? Come to Him first, and all else will follow.

O Lord, I pray for your Church, for your people.  
May we indeed be as your light and live as your children.  
Bless the Church, O Lord.

## **November 10**

The Lord is ready with gracious blessings waiting for me, and for all His children, but I must seek wisdom - who waits at every turn, who seeks out and leads those who desire her.

Tonight I learn of the pregnancy of a good friend. And as the Lord blesses her, so I know He shall bless me as well - who am also late in life and waiting for His grace.

There in His kingdom will sing men of every tongue; in one voice of the Spirit all will praise Him. But ready we must be to leave all of this world behind, to find such blessing.

How long, O Lord, how long.  
Cast into the sea the sin that keeps me here.  
Let me know thy gracious blessings.  
Bring me securely into your kingdom.

## November 11

Preaching with sound doctrine I refute the end-of-the-world false prophecies of the Jehovah's Witnesses and speak on the Lord's own teaching as to the Second Coming - as well as what it is to lay down one's life.

But yet I must guard my heart and maintain self-control, avoiding temptation and the directing of little ones into sin.

O Lord, increase my faith!

(Note: First passage refers to security guard at school, second to a female student.)

Also, first reading today shows so clearly how Catholic Church is set orderly on a firm foundation of apostleship.)

## November 12

Thomas a Kempis teaches, much as St. Paul teaches, much as Jesus teaches: we should be humble and serve one another in God's name. We should reflect the love of the Savior and His sacrifice. We should lay down our lives. And we should teach the same.

And today, by the instruction of these teachers,  
I work to accomplish His will - to perform such duty.

O Lord, when your humble Spirit moves upon us,  
    when we are united to your cross,  
    when we taste your holy sacrifice -  
when we live our lives in your perfect love,  
the Spirit of Truth does set us free.

May we remain with you always, O Lord.

## November 13

Today is the feast of Mother Cabrini, whose Missionary Sisters came to the United States to work with poor immigrants. And today I watch the movie *The Mission* at the school where I work with contemporary immigrants. (Viewing of film was preceded by discussion of "English only" government proposals.)

In the film, Jesuit priests come to South America to bring Jesus to the Indians, and form an idyllic Christian community - a "green pasture." However, political factors - in which the Church is complicit - cause their paradise to be forcibly removed from them, and even destroyed. (This world is such an evil place.)

Ironically, St. Paul encourages obedience to government officials in today's first reading. (It is so hard.) Must we accept the rulings of a corrupt nation? I'm afraid we must. But now the only leper who has returned to give praise to Jesus is silenced by the nine who have been ungrateful.

O Lord, the depth of pain we find in this land of exile  
is nearly unbearable  
when we see clearly the darkness all around us.  
But you are with us to guide us -  
your rod and your staff protect us.  
Help us on our walk to Jerusalem with you.

(And today I also read how vocations to the priesthood are flourishing everywhere but in this Western society.)

## **November 14**

The kingdom of God is in the midst of us,  
for Christ walks amongst us.

Today is a day some might hail as the end of the world -  
dark as it was, cold as it was, raw as it was with flakes  
of snow so early... but it is not.

Christ has died, and so the world is dead. Christ has  
risen, and so there is hope. When Christ comes again, the  
day shall be complete.

But as we live we must care for others and place our arms  
around others' shoulders, as Paul did for Onesimus.  
Today, others in the Church and I help our little brother  
through a difficult time. I sit with his son as another  
brother drives him to the hospital to see his wife and  
sick baby. (This is our life.)

O Lord, watch over us as the day is long.  
Let us pray for one another and serve one another.  
Care for us all the while, Lord.



## November 15

We must be ready and give all our selves to the Lord, offering our lives as a sacrifice, obediently falling to our knees before him.

But I am not so. I am sinful. I am selfish. I move according to my own plans rather than abandoning my life to Him. I do not love. I am not humble. I do not know Jesus.

Why do you not listen to the Lord's voice alone?  
When will you return to Him?

O let me be prepared, O Lord, to leave all behind.  
Teach me to love, Lord, and to remember you.  
Let not my life be so vain;  
let no wickedness reign.

## November 16

In saying my rosary in church this morning after Mass, I do plead with the Lord, insisting He take my sin and offer me direction... And at the cemetery (no one around) I lie down upon the grass at my sister's grave. Looking up at the sky, I wonder and ask what heaven will be like... When I stand, I seem to transcend my body, which had just been lying below... there is a quiet motion, an otherworldly reality about me - I move through the silence, living in the Word...

And what blessings do I find at the soup kitchen today. What overwhelming blessings! In volunteers and contributions and patrons and children and song - and a visit from our financial patrons. This was a gift from the Lord, I know.

The kingdom of heaven is in the midst of us, I must say. But do we see with eyes of faith?

Lord, you are so provident.  
Lord, you are with us.  
Lord, I love you - and my neighbor.

## November 17

What better wife and mother is there than Mary?  
The spouse of the Spirit, the Father chose to  
work through her to bring the Son into the world.  
And now we call upon her to help us find the Son.

She is a watchful mother who reminds us even now of the  
end of days - to be ready, to be watchful, to be sober  
and in prayer. The message she sends is one with that  
of the Son.

We must be ready, brothers and sisters. At all times  
we must hope for the return of Jesus. When suddenly  
He returns, He who is in our midst, it must be a happy  
surprise. The trumpet we hear must be a call to prayer  
in the house of God, not a sounding of battle and  
condemnation.

Be always in the light.

O Lord, be near us always.  
Mother, watch over us.  
Spirit of the Living God, fall upon us and remain with us,  
and let us do the work of God.

## November 18

There is so much I do not see; so far removed I am from the innocent heart - where truth is. The trappings of the world can blind us so, and threaten to rob our very souls... but truth does set the devil fleeing.

Today there is forgiveness, reconciliation, and perseverance wrought into its fabric. There is hope that as purity and perfection remain today, it may remain day after day... but there is temptation, too. But I call upon the Lord.

I would that I might see, that the truth would remain - clear in the light of day I would stand, in light as pure as the first rays of morning upon tree tops - in the Lord's golden sunshine let me stand.

Take not my place away, O Lord.  
Let me stand in innocence forever,  
in the pure light of your day.

## November 19

We have much to repent; we have much to receive from our Lord. O that He might enter into my house and sup with me always!

The Lord chastises him whom He loves, and reading Thomas a Kempis I am reprov'd deeply and abidingly, and called to such sweet perfection. How wonderful to receive Jesus in such purity! May all my lukewarmness be driven from me, that I might awaken in Christ's presence.

O Lord, the ecstasy you bring in contemplation of you -  
how can my soul contain such beauty?  
How close you are to the soul who calls upon you,  
who offers himself up to your glory.  
Help me, Lord, to maintain such love.

## November 20

Yes, holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty who sits upon the throne, who has created all that is. Praise His Name! Praise Him mightily!

But not immediately will His reign come; it will not all appear at this very moment. For how could we bear it. We would be overwhelmed. We are not to rush into the kingdom.

Yet ever must we grow; ever must we increase. To him who has, more will be given, until he has abundance.

This morning I am nearly overwhelmed before the Sacrament... but life goes on here, and we must work day to day.

I praise you, Lord, for the strides I make.  
I know it is only by your grace I grow in purity,  
in readiness and understanding of your kingdom.

Thank you for your gifts, and for our productivity.

## **November 21**

Jesus is our Savior. Jesus is our King. By Him is the human race and all creation redeemed. The twenty-four elders and the four creatures bow down before Him who is their head.

And by Mary did Jesus come. She is blessed. And we are blessed because of her resignation to the will of God.

Oh now we should heed His voice. Now we should be gathered under His wings. To avoid destruction we should align ourselves with His perfect love.

Lord, another day you have watched over me.  
Forgive me my sins, my thoughtlessness.  
May I fear no destruction.  
Let me trust in you who are exalted.

## November 22

How openly Jesus taught, how openly He spoke the truth - in the midst of the temple area. And so must we do, so must we openly profess the Lord, though it be sour to our stomachs, though it lead us to the cross.

Today on the feast of St. Cecilia, I am reminded of the gift of music the Lord has provided me, and how I must offer it - though it be painful. I think even the *Songs for Children of Light* must be played, though they be broken chords.

And I practice for tomorrow night's celebration in the church.

O Lord, take my life.  
Make me so open to evangelize in your name,  
in all ways granted to me.

Jesus is Lord!



## **November 23**

Be assured, there will be a resurrection of the dead.  
Know well the suffering prophets shall rise -  
the servant is King.

And what joy tonight in parish celebration for  
Thanksgiving - Spanish and English-speaking communities  
joined together in feast and dance and songs to God.  
(Heaven will be like this.)

O Lord, I glory in serving you.  
Though my feet ache, I know they shall  
run in the clouds one day.

May your prophets stand forth  
and call us to the kingdom.

## November 24

I myself was scattered upon the mountain, and the Lord led me back into His fold. My soul was troubled, my mind unclear, my heart impure, and my body battered - but the Lord shepherds me into restful pastures where healing is known.

O Lord, the anxious imperfections and addictions  
root from my life.  
I would that you were all in all for me;  
lead me safely through the temptations of this life.

May I find myself at your right hand in eternity.

## November 25

Much more than mere followers of the Lord, we are one with Him: we are His Body. Much more than a mere child of the Father, Jesus is one with the Father: He is also God. And so are we all made one with the Father, in the Son and through the power of the Spirit.

O to follow wherever He leads, to be so united to Jesus, so led by the Spirit - so of the Father. In that day there will be no question as to the nature of God, for we will be one with God... all doubt will disappear in His perfection.

But we must give all of ourselves, body and soul, to the Lord. We must offer all our lives to Him. We must hold nothing back, secure no sin - keep nothing for self. And then we shall find such freedom, such peace, such justice and love.

Lord, you lay down your life completely for us,  
and so you know perfect sacrifice.  
May such love fill our lives,  
that we might stand with thee in the kingdom.

## November 26

When the angels come, sickles in hand, and reap the harvest of this earth... when the end has come, and the Son of man is ready to judge this world - you will know; there will be no question... all will be done.

The deep darkness and driving rain, biting wind and cold of today are but signs of what is to come. And in the evening there is sunlight before night falls - the immense beauty of the clouds above is illumined. (We are very small.)

Yes, we are very small, and yet we are made as the image of God, reflecting His glory - the paragon of creation. Fear not, the Lord has a place for us.

The angels ascend and descend on the Son of man.

O Lord, when the end is come  
and new life is begun,  
let us be so thoroughly prepared.

## November 27

Before tribulation there is always the gift of the Holy Spirit which instructs us and sets our hearts on Jesus the Lord. In His Name we suffer all trials patiently, proclaiming His glory in all things.

Today the school closes early and is soon abandoned. Before it does, however, there is a song of innocence.

O Lord, as the end comes,  
    kindly grant us the gift of the Holy Spirit;  
    put a new song in our hearts  
        that will carry us through till the last day.

(And tomorrow there will be celebration.  
And today there is preparation.)

## November 28

(Special readings for Thanksgiving preempt the fall of Babylon and Christ's coming... We hear from Ephesians 1 and of one (of ten) grateful leper.)

Christ is our salvation. He is the Head into which we grow. Are we truly thankful for all He gives us? What joy we would know if we could recognize from where all gifts flow.

The Lord has been most generous and provident to me of late. Recently I had begun to tithe, settling on giving 5% to church / 5% to other charities. No sooner had I begun in earnest than the Lord blessed me and took away any fears, confirming my decision by giving me a new teaching assignment, which is steady employment at better pay for six months.

Over the past weeks and months and year(s), the Lord's hand has been continually with me, ever increasing His graces within me. May He continue to bless me so.

O Lord, make me your adopted son.  
Cast all my sin from me  
and let your will be done.

Thank you for your gifts,  
especially of life.

## November 29

Heaven and earth will pass away; they flee from the throne of God. Set your heart on the kingdom that does not fade.

In the Lord's presence I pray we stand for all eternity, brothers and sisters. The Lord's forgiveness is eternal; His blood cleanses complete. But we must come to His sacrament, to His Word, to His truth, and not run from Him. If we bare our souls and watch for His Word, we shall live forever.

Let the world go. The end of the church year has come, and death and disease seem to abound. But the Lord ministers unto His children and brings them safely to new life.

O Lord, thank you for your sacraments of confession  
and communion,  
which cleanse our souls and make us one with you...

Protect us always from this passing world;  
let us live in your Word and your Spirit.

## November 30

The Word goes out to the ends of the earth.  
O to carry that Word forth,  
to preach His Word!

Feast of St. Andrew, and the apostles are celebrated -  
those who are sent out in the Spirit of Christ. And I  
beg the Lord for clarity of calling; I ask Him to clear  
my mind of darkness and confusion and question.  
What is it He would have me do?

More talk of deaconry today.  
Working at soup kitchen with people of many nations.  
Many youths in Christ about.

Let us sing to the Lord a song of thanksgiving.  
Let us praise Him and go forth in His reign.

O Lord, let your happiness alone be with us.  
Let us turn the other cheek to any scoffer  
and live your life as we enter this blessed season.