

# DAYS '98

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James H. Kurt

**November 30 (1997)**

(Jer.33:14-16; Ps.25:4-5,8-10,14;  
1Thes.3:12-4:2; Lk.21:25-28,34-36)

A new year begins on this the First Sunday of Advent.

The Lord teaches us to love;  
He teaches us to prepare our hearts,  
to prepare our lives for His coming.

The way is not easy, we must know this -  
but it is nothing to fear if we love Him,  
if we seek Him  
and make progress every day in Him.

Even our readings tonight speak of love,  
a love I know I lack at times,  
but a love I shall seek.

And this morning at Mass I am blessed to speak briefly  
of the beauty of Medjugorje  
and the Mother's messages.

(A way yet to go to sainthood have we;  
we must learn to wait for His coming.)

Jesus, be with us.  
Holy Spirit, please bless us.

**December 1** (Is.2:1-5; Ps.122:1-9; Mt.8:5-11)

Nations of faith shall stream to the House of God;  
those who believe shall be welcomed in.

I continue to work on my faith and to find peace.  
Confidence and maturity (as real as the beard on my face,  
grown in Medjugorje) are being deeply set in me.  
The chinks in my armor are being filled.

This morning we take refuge in convent chapel;  
weekday Masses are to take place there beginning today.  
In this tiny chapel, the elderly woman behind me noted:  
"The church looks full."

Peace be to all who find their home and instruction  
in God's house.

In prayer, we find refuge in you, O Lord.  
Lead us to thy home.  
Heal us of all wrongs.

## December 2

(Is.11:1-10; Ps.72:1,7-8,12-13,17; Lk.10:21-24)

Our eyes look upon the Prince of Peace,  
by whom the lamb does lie down with the lion.  
Alleluia!

Perhaps there is hope.  
Tonight we have first of our parish/cluster/deanery meetings with aspirations to reform and renew the Catholic Church in our area. It seems sometimes to me we are dying as a church, but together with the Spirit we may find rejuvenation. Perhaps we may all be able to sit down together and in unity find peace.

Also, speaking at length with woman of other religion (Islam) as well as those of other nations and colors. In the presence of Jesus all is possible.  
(And all shall see.)

Lord, in life and death we are one in you.  
May Isaiah's vision of peace become reality.  
May you who are near, who are here,  
become known to us.

(That peace is always present,  
but we so readily pass it by.)

## December 3

(Is.25:6-10; Ps.23:1-6; Mt.15:29-37)

The Lord provides.

When we have His will in mind,  
when we love with His heart -  
all is given that is needed.

Worry not, for if your desire is to serve the Lord,  
you will be cared for.

It strikes me so clearly that it is Jesus' compassion  
for the people, His need to care for them, that creates  
the miracle. And, of course, it is wonderful that they  
come with such faith to the Shepherd. This is how it  
is in the Father's kingdom.

The Lord provides me with His peace and patience these  
days.

And my fast is as a great spiritual feast.  
And He gives me rest.

O Lord, to live one day in your blessed presence -  
eternally to be with you!  
Convert our hearts to you.  
(Even as Xavier did those of India.)

## December 4

(Is.26:1-6; Ps.118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27;  
Mt.7:21,24-27)

Our greatest security lies in humility;  
if we humble ourselves before our God,  
He will have no need to grind us into dust.

I pray and I beg that I shall indeed do  
the will of the Lord,  
that I shall not do anything less  
than fulfill His call for my life.

And I believe the Lord hears me  
as I seek to root out all lies;  
and I feel the Blessed Mother's presence  
very close  
as in prayer I lay down my life...  
and I sense the Lord's light filling my mind.

Medjugorje is a rock  
whose peace continues to bless my life,  
as the prayer of the rosary fulfills my days in God.

(Prayer is such a wonderful refuge and a blessing -  
in it we find life.)

Jesus, I love you.

(And I finish the Little Flower's autobiography today -  
ah, such humility and love!)

## December 5

(Is.29:17-24; Ps.27:1,4,13-14; Mt.9:27-31)

If only I could see Jesus...

Gloom and darkness are upon us today -  
black clouds overhead all day.

(Though there is something majestic, awesome about them.)

During Mass this morning I imagined Jesus  
touching my eyes and healing them...  
but I'm afraid I continue blind.

And driving home from cemetery I dream of seeing Jesus.

Remain not apart from me, Lord.  
Turn and heal me.

(He does restore my soul.)

Note: Skies particularly majestic all week.

## December 6

(Is.30:19-21,23-26; Ps.147:1-6,Is.30:18;  
Mt.9:35-10:1,6-8)

O how I need to hear that voice -  
"This is the way; walk in it."

Lord, I would be a laborer for you,  
if you would lead me forth.

(At the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen,  
we feed those who are hungry,  
and comfort those in need.

Yes, the Lord is merciful...  
but so far are we from home.)



## **December 7**

(Bar.5:1-9; Ps.126:1-6; Phil.1:4-6,8-11;  
Lk.3:1-6)

Make straight the way of the Lord!  
Clear a path for His coming!  
Let the mountains of pride be torn to the ground;  
let the valleys of doubt be filled with grace.

Hallelujah, He comes!  
Yes, He come to redeem all souls  
from the depths of the grave,  
from the heights of ignorance.

Though my life be an uneven path,  
I pray He shall come  
and allay all anxiety,  
and arouse me to activity  
in His name.

He shall come.  
Though I doubt in fear, I know  
He shall come.  
He has been here.

Remain with us, O Lord,  
until the last day.

(Quote from TV movie (approximately):  
"You must wait on His pleasure to reveal  
what He has in store for you.")

## **December 8**

(Gn.3:9-15,20; Ps.98:1-4; Eph.1:3-6,11-12;  
Lk.1:26-38)

Immaculate Conception. Purity of Mary.

Crush the head of the serpent, Dear Mother.  
Make us sons again of the loving Father.

Hallelujah!

(What joy the cleansing of Confession brings...  
and this country, too, may soon be cleansed,  
may soon be renewed,  
in ways we could not dream of -)

Blessed Vision of Christ, be our Light.

## **December 9**

(Is.40:1-11; Ps.96:1-3,10-13; Mt.18:12-14)

The Lord shall gather us into His arms.

(We have paid double for all our sins.)

What comfort and joy this brings the expectant soul!

First meeting in parish of parish representatives -

mountains and hills are already being made even;

I believe the way of the Lord shall be made straight.

There is hope.

Particularly discussion about evangelization

(which I'm afraid we so sorely lack) -

we must cry out the good news...

we must go out and find the lost sheep.

Holy Spirit, guide us along the way.

## December 10

(Is.40:25-31; Ps.103:1-4,8,10; Mt.11:28-30)

Jesus is King, exalted far above ourselves and all the earth (through whom all was created), and when we acknowledge His majesty, He shares with us His same strength - for He is kind and merciful, gentle and humble of heart.

This young man both wearies while others remain strong in the Lord - others of greater age yet fleeter afoot - and finds rest when accepting the Lord and doing His will.

He shows me I need little sleep and can fast on bread and water and be strong when working for Him - and I see myself fade into laziness when not standing with Him with purpose.

Lord, with your yoke I can carry much -  
without it I am dead.

May I remember your glorious presence close at hand  
and always find my strength in you  
and your humility.

**December 11** (Is.41:13-20; Ps.145:1,8-13; Mt.11:11-15)

All is done by the Hand of the Lord  
and glorious is it to behold...  
And now has come His Son  
to reveal all.

I am but a worm, but a maggot -  
but in God we take such strength  
to move mountains.

Praise you, Lord!  
Your kingdom come.

**December 12** (Zed.2:14-17; Lk.1:46-55; Lk.1:39-47)

(Our Lady of Guadalupe.)

In wordless wonder I stand before the Lord...

"My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord."  
(Through Her, life is brought into the world.)

"Who am I that the mother of my Lord  
should come unto me?"  
(We are humbled by she who is humble.)

Mother of God, Tabernacle of Life,  
may in silent awe  
we find what thou dost know.

Help me walk the path I should.

## December 13

(Rv.11:19,12:1-6,10; Lk.1:46-55; Lk.1:39-47)

Priest redesigned readings today to celebrate feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe again - also redesigned interior of church, placing Guadalupe statue near doors at entrance.

And I am inspired to redesign my apartment - setting up music room, and making an 'altar' with statue of Mary at center.

Regarding readings for the day on Elijah: during Holy Hour I feel as if I could grow wings and fly; at kitchen I verge on giving chastising talk to patrons; and I find inspiration to finish art works.

In the fire of the Holy Spirit is power  
to transform us into God's image.  
May we give birth with our lives  
to His work on earth.

## December 14

(Zep.3:14-18; Is.12:2-6; Phil.4:4-7;  
Lk.3:10-18)

Third Sunday of Advent.  
Rejoice in the Lord!  
He has come.

Indeed, He shall sing over us,  
so pleased is He with His children  
who believe in Him  
and offer their prayers to Him.

What joy and gladness there is  
in the presence of God.

Lord, accept our prayers of this day;  
come and make your home in us we pray.

(New petition book in church;  
intercessory prayer meeting;  
call from praise partner;  
big wins for local teams;  
rosary, etc.)



## December 15

(Nm.24:2-7,15-17; Ps.25:4-9; Mt.21:23-27)

What a beautiful, clear vision Balaam has of God's chosen people (and His Chosen One), a vision they themselves do not see.

I myself am given a dream, a vision, this morning.  
I look into the sky and see the blood of Christ.  
I turn to my cousin and point it out.  
As I raise my head and arms and begin to praise His name,  
the alarm goes off.

(It is wonderful not to be frightened of the end of time.)

And walking to church this morning, well after sunrise,  
a full moon is set in the sky...

In homily, priest notes Balaam's pagan background and remarks that all people play a part in God's plan. This comment convinces me to give bibliography of own works to Muslim student who'd expressed interest in my writings and why they weren't published - suggested, with humor, that she be my agent.

Other notes: despite the fact that there have been three Eucharistic ministers at morning Mass of late, it happens that none of the three are in attendance today, so I must distribute the blood...  
(Just remembered, had actually begun to explain chalice and blood to same Muslim student today - came up as part of an assignment - when realized it wasn't part of her culture.)

Also, incident with a dog being walked by a boy this morning and remaining undisturbed by other dogs' barking - when I went to pet him (daring for me) he jumped back, frightened of me.

Jesus, thank you for being with me in these days.  
Remain until the end.

## December 16

(Zep.3:1-2,9-13; Ps.34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23;  
Mt.21:28-32)

Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering heaven,  
even the man on death row  
may be heading for the kingdom -  
for Jesus has been crucified for all of these...  
even us.

If we see not ourselves as sinners, we shall never be  
redeemed, for indeed we all deserve capital punishment,  
save for the mercy of the Lord. We must realize, though  
painful it is, how great is our sin and that because of  
it, Christ has died on the cross. Can you accept His  
death for you and enter into His kingdom?

Let me take the question a step further -  
can you lay down your life for a murderer on death  
row?  
Would you take (H)is place?

May I be so humble and loving, Lord.  
And may I do your will in all things.

(Also, realized today in thoughts about monastic life  
that, though doubtful once about its accomplishments,  
it is in itself a complete Christian act - the life  
itself is the perfect expression of God's will. Other  
(partial) actions come and go, but this one is eternal.  
It is the giving of one's whole life.)

Finally, my sins are remembered today,  
as they should always be.

## December 17

(Gn.49:2,8-10; Ps.72:3-4,7-8,17; Mt.1:1-17)

Jesus is King; it is He who rules  
with justice.

The gospel of the lineage of Jesus is one which many  
find tedious. (In fact, priest uses alternate today.)  
But I find it strengthening and truly redemptive.  
It makes Jesus very real to me.  
(It thus makes Communion very real this morning,  
as I meditate on the true presence of Christ.)

Jesus is very real, flesh and blood  
born of flesh and blood  
in human history...

This king who is to rule eternally  
shares our humble estate.

Jesus, sit beside me and be with me;  
enter into me and sanctify me.  
Make me ready for your coming.

## **December 18**

(Jer.23:5-8; Ps.72:1,12-13,18-19; Mt.1:18-24)

Mary was wide awake when the angel came to make his announcement; it was in a dream Joseph was assured. (You remember it was while Adam was fast asleep that God made Eve from him.)

The rationale of the man must be disarmed before he can believe - a woman must be brought to understanding. Either way, it is so that Justice is born.

Today is a personal anniversary - two full years of daily Mass... and on this day I make final corrections to *Days '97*.

May I sleep on in you, O Lord,  
that you might continue to speak to me.

## December 19

(Jgs.13:2-7,24-25; Ps.71:3-6,8,16-17;  
Lk.1:5-25)

From birth we are called, from the womb,  
to come unto the dome of heaven.

No strong drink shall touch my lips,  
only the sweet blood of Christ -  
only His lips shall I kiss.  
(I shall never turn down the cup of the Lord.)

Unto the tomb we shall remain with Him,  
when again we shall rejoice together.

At the cemetery this evening,  
a most beautiful sky of sunset color...  
purple clouds become pink  
as they move and light shines through -  
a shaft of light rises from the horizon.  
(All this following a white cross.)

From birth till death we shall be blessed.

Come, Lord Jesus.  
Send your messengers ahead of us  
to clear the way.

(At the cemetery I clean off memorial statue  
for the unborn -  
Rachel, weep no more.)

## December 20

(Is.7:10-14; Ps.24:1-6; Lk.1:26-38)

What greater sign could we ask  
than the One the Lord has given?

I feel a time of crisis upon myself as well,  
when the Lord will request a decision -

May my answer be as forthright as Mary's.  
May it be made with such faith and confidence.  
May it be made with such humility.  
When the angel leaves me, having completed his task,  
may he fly happily away.

Watching *It's A Wonderful Life* (and crying, again) -  
an angel is sent and gives a sign  
to assure the right decision,  
and make known the blessing  
of life.

(Funny, her former landlady said she was told,  
erroneously, that my widowed friend had died -  
even as I wore my Santa's cap at the soup kitchen  
today.)

Lord, if it wearies you not,  
let the sign be written clearly on my soul...  
Your Truth is all I seek.

(Another curious note: another woman at soup kitchen with  
a photograph in which many could see the Blessed Mother,  
but not I - though I wasn't much needful of such a sign.  
Actually, another woman - one not prone to such -  
mentioned to me she'd seen an image of Jesus in  
the manger scene in our church.)

## December 21

(Mic.5:1-4; Ps.80:2-4,15-16,18-19;  
Heb.10:5-10; Lk.1:39-45)

Let us trust in the Lord,  
that His words *will* be fulfilled,  
that He shall bless and guide our life  
and take all our days  
into His holy arms...

For a child is come as prophesied,  
a Savior for our race,  
and He shall be born again in you,  
if only you open up your heart.

May our hearts leap at the Word of the Lord  
in our midst.

Come, Lord Jesus.  
Make the humble strong.  
Sanctify us in your sacrifice.

(Your Eucharist is our greatest gift.)

## **December 22**

(1Sm.1:24-28; 1Sm.2:1,4-8; Lk.1:46-56)

How the Lord does visit His people, unexpectedly,  
unpredictably... raising the lowly, making fruitful  
the barren - the humbled shall be exalted.

Still I wait. Still I look. Still I fall short, yet  
hope and seek for the Lord's hand to move in my life.  
Still the Mother is there to bring comfort.

Bless this child, Lord -  
and all your children.

(At special deanery penance service tonight, there  
are more than a dozen of the Lord's and Mary's blessed  
children - a beautiful sight. And before the pilgrim  
statue of Fatima, one of her sons preaches as she looks  
on. The priest stands in the place of Jesus.)



## December 23

(Mal.3:1-4,23-24; Ps.25:4-5,8-10,14,Lk.21:28;  
Lk.1:57-66)

Prepare your hearts, for He comes.

(And I prepare for my trip to Florida tomorrow -  
in the cleaning of my house  
and the beginning of my fast  
I find a curing for my cold.)

It is clear to all what is to come...  
we must be ready.

Lord, make me pure in these days.

## December 24

(2Sm.7:1-5,8-11,16; Ps.89:2-5,27,29;

Lk.1:67-79)

He it is who establishes a house for us,  
who prepares a place in heaven -  
He it is who is our Light and our salvation.

I am now in the house of my parents in Florida,  
and it is Christmas Eve.  
I wish a Merry Christmas to all.

He will come in light, not hidden,  
and all eyes shall look upon His glory.

(Watching television, I see the eyes of Scrooge opened,  
and I see Jesus of Nazareth open the eyes of the blind  
man and the blind guides. Now if only my ears, clogged  
by the plane ride, could open...)

Lead us, Lord, into the way of peace.  
May we accept the accommodations you make for us.

## December 25

(Is.52:7-10; Ps.98:1-6; Heb.1:1-6; Jn.1:1-18)

The Word is made flesh and dwells among us.  
Alleluia!  
The Light shines clearly in the darkness.  
Praise God!

Joy to the world!

Joy was on my mind this morning in prayer as I reflected on Our Lady of Medjugorje's message of November for what would be the final day - today a new message comes. I'd been realizing the call to Christian vocation as a way of living for *all* Christians, and today I realized why it is joyful - for what brings greater joy than the birth of Christ.

Then the priest in his homily spoke specifically about joy, differentiating it from happiness, which he defined as being pleased by external, passing things; and inner joy, which is eternal, carrying us through all things.

God looks on the heart;  
I would I had such eyes as He...  
(There you shall find joy.)

I must not seek the passing happiness of things  
or even people;  
I must find joy in Christ.

And though Mass was rather somber,  
I know soon joy will come to us.

Your joy be with us and remain with us, Lord,  
through the dark clouds of this day  
unto your kingdom.

## December 26

(Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59; Ps.31:3-4,6-8,17,21;  
Mt.10:17-22)

St. Stephen, deacon and first of martyrs -  
and speaker of wisdom in the Holy Spirit  
(and lover of his enemies):

After birth comes death, holy death.

I identify with Stephen in several ways -  
as servant he is humble,  
as speaker he is wise,  
and as martyr he is thoroughly loving of Christ.  
These are such truly Christian characteristics.

In adoration of the exposed Blessed Sacrament I pray to  
step directly into the kingdom upon death. I feel more  
ready than ever. I ask Mary to intercede and I believe  
she hears and is blessing my request.

May I always have a mouth and wisdom of the Holy Spirit  
in all I speak and all I write, O Lord.  
Though I fall short and am often blind,  
gift me always with your presence.

I trust in you.

## December 27

(1Jn.1:1-4; Ps.97:1-2,5-6,11-12; Jn.20:2-8)

The "clouds and darkness" "round about" the Lord are evident on this overcast and rain-filled day - but light does fill my room during prayer.

Perhaps the greatness of God is most evident in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the absolute proof to human eyes of His presence in our lives.

Do you believe?

I continue to wonder how many theologians really believe, as on this feast of St. John the Evangelist I think to begin another reading of the Bible from cover to cover. I recently purchased a version highly recommended by the Bible-preaching priest formerly at our parish, whose views on the Scriptures I always found faith-filled - who had a belief in prophecy. But before I read the first word, I find an asterisk, and upon checking the note at the end of the Testament I find the explanation/apology that here we do not find a scientific expounding of Creation, and that nothing in the beginning of Genesis contradicts the theory of evolution, etc.,...

Why must we make excuses for prophecy?

Why must it kowtow to 'science'?

Does anyone believe or even understand prophecy anymore?

I pray for knowledge of the Lord to fill the earth.

Lord, awaken the mind of man from the darkness of sleep.  
My Lord and my God, save us from such ignorance.

## **December 28**

(Sir.3:2-6,12-14; Ps.128:1-5; Col.3:12-21;  
Lk.2:41-52)

Obedience is theme on this the feast of the Holy Family.

Jesus was obedient unto His parents, to the teachers, and to all the customs of the Church and His people. Although He also taught them, He was humble and patient, meek and lowly. Though the Son of God, He emptied Himself to become man.

Again, I had already been reflecting upon obedience before coming upon it today in the readings. I was contemplating poverty, chastity, and obedience and how they are relevant to all Christian lives, Religious or not.

Poverty seems to me to address our own personal prayer life and relationship with God; chastity is purity, particularly sexually, whether married or celibate; and obedience I think refers to our work and service for others.

We learn obedience first with regard to our parents, so it is poignant that I am here with them now. But my thoughts are regarding work and how I have yet to find it in a whole form. Though I am obedient in piecemeal fashion to various supervisors, the priests, etc., I must lack absolute obedience to God's will for my life. I pray for it.

And I listen silently, obediently, as my father teaches me to hit a golf ball. (And I carry the bag for us both.)

Lord, open my ears that I might hear and be obedient,  
that I might do thy will.  
Your humble servant am I;  
may I reflect that with all others.

## December 29

(1Jn.2:3-11; Ps.96:1-3,5-6,11; Lk.2:22-35)

So comes Truth.

The sword of His word shall separate good and evil,  
and His sword of truth shines with love.

Let us follow His command and love one another.

Confessed today lack of obedience and, so, lack of  
vocation. While traveling I see a boy in love with  
the bus, asking questions and learning... he has his  
vocation, simple and true. At school this afternoon  
the wind blows intensely -

where are you calling me, O Lord?

(I finish writing up deacon application  
and application for scholarship for Catechesis M.A.)

Lord, leave me not alone.  
Speak your word over me;  
guide me along your road.

## **December 30**

(1Jn.2:12-17; Ps.96:7-11; Lk.2:36-40)

In my own life,

"the world with its seductions is passing away."

I was once a great sinner. (I think of St. Augustine.)  
But now I call upon the name of the Lord and grow in  
strength.

I thank the Lord for the faith with which He blesses me.

I give to you, O Lord, all glory and praise,

and I thank you as I come to know you.

As I do, I too become filled with wisdom.

Grace of God, be with me.

(Let me conquer the evil one.)



**December 31** (1Jn.2:18-21; Ps.96:1-2,11-13; Jn.1:1-18)

Jesus comes. He alone is Truth.  
His Spirit is with us, guiding us to all knowledge.  
This Word is the Light that enlightens all men.

I come from a show on prophecies and end of times  
to Paul's exhortation against antichrists. It  
takes discernment to know the truth; as Paul says,  
"all knowledge is ours."

And I find it poetic that today, the final day of  
the year, I find a book - a book I've sought for  
a couple of months - in an old store: St. Francis  
de Sales' *Introduction to the Devout Life*. Here  
should be a good guide for the new year.

(Tomorrow I am to return to New Jersey.)

Lord, prepare us well upon this "final hour."  
Our Lady, intercede for us still.  
Holy Spirit, come with thine undeniable Truth,  
and instill the Word within our souls.

## January 1, 1998

(Nm.6:22-27; Ps.67:2-3,5-6,8;  
Gal.4:4-7; Lk.2:16-21)

Born is the Prince of Peace, born of the Mother of God.  
This is our blessing.

And as Aaron blesses the people, so Our Lady of  
Medjugorje, the Queen of Peace, tells us to bless  
all men - to wish them good and they shall be good.  
(This in her monthly message, come on Christmas Day.)

Last night the sky was dark, as dark as I've ever seen  
it (and this after a bright, sunny day) - the moon and  
the stars were obscured. This morning the sun was bright  
as could be - not a cloud to be seen.

A woman shall come, clothed with the sun,  
and she shall usher in an era of peace.

Happy New Year.

Lord, your blessing be upon all peoples,  
even to the ends of the earth.  
May all men know Jesus born in their hearts.  
(Your new day come in the midst of our darkness.)

**January 2** (1Jn.2:22-28; Ps.98:1-4; Jn.1:19-28)

There is one "the strap of whose sandal" no one is "worthy to unfasten." For He is the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus is that man. And though He humbles Himself to wash our feet, to cleanse our sin - yet we are not worthy to even look upon Him. Were it not for His grace, we would surely die.

He is the One, brothers and sisters.  
Proclaim His Name.

Hallelujah, Lord! Praise thy Name.  
May all men come to know you as the Christ.  
May we not be ashamed to proclaim your saving glory.

**January 3** (1Jn.2:29-3:6; Ps.98:1,3-6; Jn.1:29-34)

The Spirit must descend upon this year.  
This is critical.

And I find myself called to make progress,  
called to move forward,  
called to overcome sin -  
St. Francis de Sales makes it clear,  
and I shall follow his meditations  
to overcome affection for sin...

(When stepping up another level on the ladder,  
it seems to me I know nothing at all -  
I feel like such a novice  
when accepting growth  
and placing myself under obedience.)

Spirit of Truth, be with us.  
Form us into children of God.

(O what we might see!)

## January 4

(Is.60:1-6; Ps.72:1-2,7-8,10-13; Eph.3:2-3,5-6;  
Mt.2:1-12)

The Epiphany.

Jesus did not appear suddenly, out of nowhere, and then get nailed to the cross. He was, in fact, prophesied for centuries: the place of His birth was known. He grew in His mother's womb, and at His birth a star shone brightly. He was prophesied over at His presentation, and showed His wisdom at twelve... The thing I have most found marvelous this Christmas is the realization that He grew in this flesh and bone for some thirty years before entering ministry - gradually, day by day, in the confines of the body and time.

His birth was not a mystery - it was not accomplished in darkness, but this Light was come to banish all darkness.

At a baptism today I pray to renew my vows  
and humble myself under the mighty hand of the Lord.

"What Child Is This?" the organist plays;  
and as I eat His body, I cry at His presence with me.

Sitting around breakfast table with two (or three)  
priests, discussing my vocation.

Glory to you, Lord.  
Your Spirit come into the furnace that is this world  
and bring peace and comfort to all men.

**January 5** (1Jn.3:22-4:6; Ps.2:7-8,10-11; Mt.4:12-17,23-25)

Jesus speaks true prophecy: "Reform your lives!"  
Indeed so must we do, as persons and as a people.

Instructed by St Francis' thoughts on meditation,  
I spend two hours praying the rosary. To truly  
believe in the name of the Son, Jesus Christ,  
is most awe-inspiring and even frightening -  
I have much progress to make.

And with priest I expound my views of the falseness  
of both Presidents Reagan and Clinton: two sides of  
the same evil coin. (But both can smile... Beware.)

May the Lord take my own affliction from me;  
and may His light dawn upon the darkness of this nation.

Come, Holy and True One,  
and reform our lives.  
May we walk the strait path to you.

(Give us knowledge of truth, O Lord.)

## January 6

(1Jn.4:7-10; Ps.72:1-4,7-8,11; Mk.6:34-44)

God has loved us by giving us His Son;  
let us rejoice in that love!  
Yes, our Lord's justice is eternal...  
Hallelujah!

"You give them something to eat," Jesus says, and the disciples immediately think in human terms of money and labor. But God gives without money and without labor - He gives in love. (Those who are thirsty, come to the water and drink. He who is burdened, come and find rest.)

I read a letter in a missionary magazine re the human service provided as opposed to the living of the Gospel of Jesus. I must admit the same thought of where is Jesus has frequently come to my mind. I should not want to criticize, for I am certainly not living the Word myself, but it seems if we were really being Jesus' disciples we would not need to even buy food and medicine - we could heal by the Word alone.

Jesus sent His disciples out two by two with nothing but His word, and they healed the sick and cast out demons.

Is this not what we should be doing?  
Is this not our mission?  
I believe God's love is so available;  
if we but trusted in Him,  
if we "neatly arranged like flower beds" our souls -  
He would provide.

His Word is all we need.

O Lord, help us to trust in your love.  
You provide for all who express their need.  
Praise you, Lord!  
(Lead us in your way.)

## January 7

(1Jn.4:11-18; Ps.72:1-2,10,12-13; Mk.6:45-52)

If we have the love of God in us, there is no room for doubt or fear. But so often our minds are closed to God's presence.

Speaking with a former student on the phone about doubts of the faith... We are living in a faithless generation, a generation in a crisis of faith (even in the Church). There is no love to balance the oppression the mind inflicts. What shall become of us?

Fear not; only believe. Take refuge in the innocence of the child, in the silence of God, in the loving wounds of Christ.

We have such a King who is of love.

Open our minds to your presence, Lord;  
teach us to love.

(Note: visited a friend in a prestigious New York hospital: doctors rushing for the elevators - no time, and so, how much compassion? Drugs, yes, many drugs.)



## **January 8**

(1Jn.4:19-5:4; Ps.72:1-2,11,14-15,17; Lk.4:14-22)

O Lord, sit in our midst and teach us;  
I have need of the wisdom  
which comes from your blessed lips.

How do we love, O Lord?  
How shall we love as thou hast shown?  
May we love thee, Lord;  
may we love thee dearly -  
and your children as our own.

Though this day is dark  
and my body weak,  
I seek the truth  
and pray for holy matrimony:

This world is in need of the peace  
of those who swim in the depths of God's love  
in their love for one another.

May your year of favor come, Lord.

**January 9** (1Jn.5:5-13; Ps.147:12-15,19-20; Lk.5:12-16)

In this deserted place I often pray -  
but what do I do?  
I do not heal.  
(And in this time I am not working...)

I realize today how alone I am,  
and this loneliness is not well.

Someone filling out an application is asked what  
occupation he has the most experience in: "waiter."  
And so it is with me, for all my life I wait.  
For these many years I have longed to bear fruit,  
to marry, to serve the Lord...  
and yet do I wait, alone.

Lord, I love you, but please heal me.  
Make me whole and not afraid.

I believe in your Name and the life you bring.

## January 10

(1Jn.5:14-21; Ps.149:1-6,9; Jn.3:22-30)

Asked the Lord for chastisement yesterday,  
and He answered me in an outpouring of tears -  
and I am cleansed of a sin not deadly.

What is this deadly sin?  
We are told by Jesus it is that against the Holy Spirit,  
of turning Truth to lie.  
All else is forgivable.  
(I read today of St. Therese's prayers for a terrible  
murderer.)

Today, too, I mail my application to the Diaconate...  
I had been thinking of something Francis de Sales said  
of St. Catherine of Sienna - serving her family as the  
Holy Family. As I stood in the sanctuary, looking upon  
our new administrator on the altar, I thought how the  
priest stands in the place of Christ and what blessings  
I might receive by reverencing him so. I had not time  
to study gospel before Mass, so found it particularly  
poetic to hear John's words declaring himself as "best  
man" to Jesus. So is a deacon to his priest.

Lord, if you would have me find a place in this world,  
let it be only of your will.  
If alone in exile I am to remain,  
let it be so.

Whatever cross you give, I will accept.

## **January 11**

(Is.42:1-4,6-7; Ps.29:1-4,9-11; Acts 10:34-38;  
Lk.3:15-16,21-22)

The Baptism of the Lord - the glorious end  
of the Christmas season.

He is God's beloved Son and through Him we are adopted  
as sons; in His baptism we are cleansed and sent forth  
ourselves.

There are blessed signs of the Spirit descending  
and our parish renewing and uniting...  
May we be sent forth in His name.

And so, now begins Ordinary Time,  
with the Spirit's anointing.

(Evening prayer nearly overwhelming - words so real,  
Spirit and Light so close.)

Good Lord, continue to shine radiantly upon us,  
cleanse the dark corners of our minds  
and make us ready to serve you.

## January 12

(1Sm.1:1-8; Ps.116:12-19; Mk.1:14-20)

The disciples are called;  
Samuel will be called from Hannah's womb  
and offered to God -  
and we are called to "reform" our lives.

I am undergoing a process of reformation, a cleansing,  
a preparation for ministry, I believe. More consciously  
am I applying myself to purification by the Lord.

Yesterday Jesus was baptized in the river, thus making  
it pure; and today He calls His disciples from the sea  
to walk the dry land, bearing fruit to eternal life.

Thus begins Ordinary Time.

O Lord, may this barren womb  
bring forth fruit in your Name.  
I give to you my days.

(Have I mentioned my idea of walking the streets saying  
the rosary - I've begun doing so alone in the park.)

## January 13

(1Sm.1:9-20; 1Sm.2:1,4-8; Mk.1:21-28)

From whence comes authority?  
From whence comes power?  
From whence comes life itself?  
But from God.

He is the Creator and Jesus is His Son.

We praise God for the gifts He gives us.  
We praise God for being with us.  
We praise God for answering our prayers.  
He sits behind us, watching from a distance,  
and by His power  
we are made whole.

Thank you, God, for the healing of friends  
and the strengthening of souls.  
May we enter your kingdom and live.

## **January 14**

(1Sm.3:1-10,19-20; Ps.40:2-5,7-10; Mk.1:29-39)

We all must be so ready to do the will of the Lord.  
We must all present ourselves before God  
and fulfill His call.  
As Jesus came and accepted His ministry,  
so must we ours.

After virtually continuous service for twelve  
hours yesterday, today I was tired and napped -  
must be readier to move on to the next town,  
quicker to make transitions between days...

Jesus, strengthen me in service of you.  
May my ears recognize your voice calling me.  
Take my life.

## January 15

(1Sm.4:1-11; Ps.44:10-11,14-15,25-26;  
Mk.1:40-45)

Hearing how the Lord was not with the Israelites and, so, how they were defeated in battle, I cannot but think how the Lord is not with us, and how abortion goes on... We must purify ourselves of all immorality if truth is to go forth.

And what a beautiful scene in the gospel of Mark as Jesus reaches out and touches the leper, thus healing Him immediately. I can just see this 'unclean' man's eyes light up (perhaps with tears) as the Son of perfection makes contact with his skin.

An elder(ly) brother, who's returned to the hospital for the past couple of weeks, seems not to get better... His wife is maintaining faith, but I am wondering why the Lord goes not forth with our armies.

Heal all the illness upon us, O Lord.  
In humility and faith let us remain with you.



## January 16

(1Sm.8:4-7,10-22; Ps.89:2,16-19; Mk.2:1-12)

Singular experience today: lying down, tired and not well in body or soul, I am able only to utter weak prayers. But rather suddenly I sense the grace of God lifting my heart and soul, clearing my mind - bringing me to wholeness, to goodness. It was as if someone was praying for my good and I was accepting those prayers (perhaps the Blessed Mother, in accord with her most recent message). I felt the benefits of all my past prayers and communions coming to soothe me... I am turned from sin and sickness to light and life.

A question (seemingly a negative one): would ordination to the diaconate be an unwise subjugation to a king? Would I be freer and closer to God as I am?

O Jesus, be my king, my only king,  
whomever I serve in this land...  
and bring me ever more the health and grace of heaven.

## January 17

(1Sm.9:1-4,17-19,10:1; Ps.21:2-7; Mk.2:13-17)

Life and death are not in our hands;  
we cannot decide when life should come  
or which life should go...  
(Abortion is but a short step from contraception.)

Saul seemed every inch the king,  
the king all men would want -  
so tall, so handsome...  
Yet he would prove every inch the failure.

Matthew (Levi) was obviously a sinner,  
never to be of the chosen -  
yet he is become one of the twelve,  
seated with Jesus.

When will we learn to trust in God?

And without our knowing it, to no one's knowledge  
when we woke up this morning, is born a rosary walk:  
a half hour before service at kitchen,  
ten or so of us circle the block in prayer.  
(This is how the Spirit works; this is how life comes.)

Spirit, work in our lives mightily, I pray.  
Into your hands we commend our lives.

## January 18

(Is.62:1-5; Ps.96:1-3,7-10; 1Cor.12:4-11;  
Jn.2:1-12)

The Holy Spirit has rejoiced to make Mary His bride, and she has borne the fruit that is Jesus. We, too, share in this joy, for Mary is our Mother, too, and it is the Spirit who gives us life to bear fruit in Jesus' Name. The miracles He performed, the fruit He bore, the love He shared, is ours to share with one another.

Might I find my wedding garment to prepare for such a feast as awaits us in Jesus.

Till death do us part, whatever sorrows may come, we shall remain in Jesus.

(Prayed in Spirit for healing of friend whose failing health has kept him in hospital for three weeks... wife remains remarkably strong and faithful.)

Lord, send forth your blessing  
and dispel the darkness upon us.  
May we be wed to you and celebrate your glory.

## January 19

(1Sm.15:16-23; Ps.50:8-9,16-17,21,23;

Mk.2:18-22)

What God will be, God will be.  
His Word is not for us to question.  
His way is not for us to decide.  
We are but to be obedient.  
(Then we will find new life.)

How different Saul is from David. Saul does what *he* thinks is right; David when presented with situations (like killing Saul) wherein all would justify his actions, turns away to do what God says is right.

Son of David, Son of God,  
help us to curb our own imaginations,  
our own justifications and rationalization,  
to walk in the Light of the living God.

## **January 20**

(1Sm.16:1-13; Ps.89:20-22,27-28; Mk.2:23-28)

Again, we cannot confine God;  
and He would not have us confined.  
He would anoint us with His Spirit  
that we might always live.

The holy order God ordains  
is deeper than our reckoning.

Teach me your law, O Lord,  
and may I live it  
with my life.

(And teach me to see beyond the 'legalese' of this world  
and its deceptive light.)

## January 21

(1Sm.17:32-33,37,40-51; Ps.144:1-2,9-10;

Mk.3:1-6)

David vs. Goliath.

(And Jesus vs. the Pharisees.)

The Pope arrives in Cuba.

My friend, my elder brother, the meekest man I know,  
is dying in the hospital.

Tomorrow is the anniversary of the court decision  
which legalized abortion in this country.

The Pope brings Truth as his weapon.

I pray for my friend to St. Jude.

(In His time and way says intercession this morning.)

There is yet hope that love will out.

Heal us, Lord, on this day - on any day.

May your Spirit help us in battle.

(Make us strong as St. Agnes, your lamb.)

## January 22

(1Sm.18:6-9,19:1-7; Ps.56:2-3,5,9-14; Mk.3:7-12)

Does Saul believe his pretension of relenting in his anger and jealousy against David? How often this scenario will repeat itself, until finally he dies upon his own sword.

Do the pro-abortionists believe their own rhetoric? How many excuses will be offered before truth reigns?

This is a remarkable day: the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the Pope speaks out against abortion in Cuba as the President of the United States again must deny charges of sexual misconduct and coverup. (My head is reeling and I lack words - now does the Holy Spirit come?)

People push themselves toward Jesus and unclean spirits fling themselves at His feet...

Come, Holy Spirit.  
Heal us, Lord.

## January 23

(1Sm.24:3-21; Ps.57:2-4,6,11; Mk.3:13-19)

The Lord's leaders and the Lord's kings...

None is perfect, certainly, except He who calls them, and so none can condemn another. Indeed, Saul recognizes and proclaims David's kingliness, his righteousness: he is an upright man respectful of God. Though Saul clearly has his shortcomings (and so shall David), I must not be too harsh on him - if he be in heaven, I pray he shall pray for cleansing of the arrogance of my soul. (And can we even be certain Judas is damned?)

I find it difficult tonight to chastise a leader after prayer meeting. I would sooner have held my tongue, but for her direct questioning of me. I could see it was difficult for her, and I regretted 'cutting off an end of her garment.'

My teaching tonight was on loving your enemy and the fact that the Lord chastises those whom He loves.

Earlier in the day, after Confession I realize that I lack in loving of my neighbor. I try to love God, but this is not really possible if you do not love others.

Lord, my brothers and sisters are a gift from you -  
help me to love them.  
Lord, raise up all the leaders of your Church  
to do your will in light.



## January 24

(2Sm.1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27; Ps.80:2-7;  
Mk.3:20-21)

So many things I have to do for the Lord -

I am overwhelmed...

I eat as I walk and perform tasks:

placing newspapers and other information in back  
of church, re partial-birth abortion; lectoring  
and ministering communion; coordinating Holy Hour  
and rosary walk; cutting flowers for vase; and I  
haven't even gotten to the soup kitchen where I must  
help cook and clean, give out food and carry packages,  
play music and preach, counsel and chasten workers...  
I must be out of my mind.

My body is racked; my bones I feel.

I am tired beyond sleep.

O Lord, take the work we do this day;  
may it bear fruit in your kingdom.

(I wish no praise,  
only to know the love of Jesus and Mary.)

## January 25

(Neh.8:2-6,8-10; Ps.19:8-10,15; 1Cor.12:12-30;  
Lk.1:1-4,4:14-21)

The Word. The Word and its power.  
The bearer of Truth.

The Word is imparted to the Israelites returned from exile, and they weep for joy. The Word is imparted to us via the scribes: Jesus is the king of the Jews. What more powerful tool have we?

And the Pope this day even espouses the truth to those who sat in darkness. How much this world, *this country*, needs to listen and weep. Even as we as a Church fight to override partial-birth abortion ban veto, and the priest speaks out - we need to hear the truth.

Truth is a great healer.  
May the Word of the Lord be with you.

And how true it is that we are all one Body - in our prayer groups, in our church, in the Church as a whole; all those in the world, in fact, are parts of the whole, and we need each other.

None of us has a monopoly on truth;  
the Lord has spread His gifts among all the nations  
(though we are His people).

Lord, may the world heed the Word of Truth  
which issues forth so clearly  
from your son, your Vicar.

May all be so blessed,  
and we be one.

## January 26

(2Sm.5:1-7,10; Ps.89:20-22,25-26; Mk.3:22-30)

David is the king of Israel;  
    Jesus is the Son of David and Son of God,  
    and being God is one with the Spirit of Truth.  
(Be not offended at His good works.)

And is not the Church, the Bride of the Spirit,  
    is She not of Truth?  
And is not this certainly so of Mary,  
    daughter of the Father,  
    bride of the Holy Spirit,  
    Mother of Jesus -  
    is she not one with the Truth?  
And so, are not we all -  
    all her children,  
    all the Church...?

Lengthy conversation today re Catholic/Protestant  
contentions, and today a pilgrim statue of Fatima  
comes into my home.

Authority cannot be gainsaid. It must be respected.  
And now our Pope is God's anointed.

Bless your people, dear Lord;  
    bless your Church.  
Make us one Body,  
    under your holy rule.

## January 27

(2Sm.6:12-15,17-19; Ps.24:7-10; Mk.3:31-35)

May the Lord enter in and dwell with us,  
that we might do the will of God.

I try to do the will of the Lord as I am called on to orchestrate a parish renewal meeting tonight, but I fall asleep for an hour before, so with a cloudy mind I go. The turnout was very disappointing and meeting could not be run as planned... I do not know where our brothers and sisters were.

But the Fatima statue is yet in my home, and I manage to get a couple of brothers and sisters to come over after the meeting to say rosary prayers.

Lord, do come into our lives;  
let us celebrate your presence among us  
and live daily Mass as the Mother instructs.

All is in your will, and we praise you for it.

## January 28

(2Sm.7:4-17; Ps.89:4-5,27-30; Mk.4:1-20)

"If the Lord does not build the house,  
in vain do the builders labor."

The Lord makes clear to David (and to us) that it is He who does all things; by His power alone is David made king, for it is His will. He does not say David's idea is a bad one (in fact, He promises the house will be built), but we must not presume that anything we do is of us. (Perhaps there is something of a lesson for me here about last night.)

It is the Lord who plants the seed, and it is by His power that it grows. When our wills are subject to His, then we shall bear fruit.

And on this darkest and rawest of days, when my only student is "Dolores" (pain and sorrow) and ice falls from the skies, my elder brother dies. May his life, which was so humble, now bear fruit in heaven.

Lord, take all anxiety from me,  
all thought that anything I do is of me.  
Teach me to lay down my life  
in humility.

## January 29

(2Sm.7:18-19,24-29; Ps.132:1-5,11-14;  
Mk.4:21-25)

"Who am I, Lord God," that you have come under my roof?

My house is blessed first by one priest, then  
blessed again by another as I am most favored  
to have an Enthronement Mass in my home tonight.

I simply cannot say but how overwhelmed I was that  
Jesus should visit me so really in my simple home;  
when the priest held the Eucharist aloft, I could  
not have felt less worthy... But yet He blesses me.

If I am to be a deacon here in St. Paul of the Cross  
Church, tonight could not have been more apropos.  
The family gathered around me was my church family  
whom I serve - and could the first reading have been  
more beautiful. (O that the Lord would bless this  
house of God, His people!)

And the gospel is certainly the one most on my mind  
when I think of God's gifts to me, particularly *Songs  
for Children of Light*, and how I long to share them.  
(O that His light would shine forth through me!)

May your blessings remain with me, Lord,  
forever;  
bless my house and family - your children of light.

## January 30

(2Sm.11:1-10,13-17; Ps.51:3-7,10-11; Mk.4:26-34)

I find it most appropriate (again) that it is the Crowning With Thorns mystery that I lead this night as we pray around my elder brother's coffin. Sadly in need of humbling am I as, so shortly after the great blessing of last night, this morning I begin to succumb to pride - seeing the small sins of those around me at morning Mass. But who am I to judge, whose sin is as deep as David's?

But thankful am I that my great sins are behind me - it is wonderful how time may change us. (In fact, it is a woman who was once as Bathsheba to me that suggested the rosary at the wake.) What shall arise these coming few years I do not know; I can only hope to remain in prayer.

Humility is absolutely a must. It was provided today, too, at work. To a job I'd been away from I returned at an income lower than I've known for some time, and there I serve little purpose...

Lord, was not my brother a truly humble soul?  
Please grant me a measure of the blessing he's known;  
may he pray that in your hands I grow.

## January 31

(2Sm.12:1-7,10-17; Ps.51:12-17; Mk.4:35-41)

He who took his siesta in the afternoon  
now lies upon the ground in sackcloth.  
And when He who commands all with His word sleeps,  
we all are in danger of dying.

My friend sleeps in peace this night, as I continue to  
wake from slumber. I am helped by the funeral of this  
holy man, who *does* leave his effect upon his brothers  
and sisters.

This is a blessed day: twice to Mass and reception of  
Communion, Confession, Holy Hour, rosary, and service...  
There is hope I shall wake from sleep.

Lord, the death of your holy ones is blessed.  
May I die to sin and so wake with you.  
Your peace is much to be desired.



## **February 1**

(Jer.1:4-5,17-19; Ps.71:1-6,15,17;  
1Cor.12:31-13:13; Lk.4:21-30)

Love gives life to all things:

Jesus is love.

(If you have it not, you have nothing.)

And He is our strength, the Word of truth  
which none can break down.

(Such faith had my brother, and has his wife. And we,  
too, are learning that faith. I share with others  
wonder at our lack of sadness, and our confidence he  
is with Jesus, and in a special way with us.)

Today, too, I marvel at the words He alone gives me for  
homily during service at nursing home. I had little idea  
what to say until I began to speak - trusting the Spirit -  
and my words came out clear and organized, and with  
message.

(Encouraging, if I am to be a deacon and give sermons.)

Your word is true, Lord.

You are the resurrection and the life.

Though your word is hard,

it gives life to all who accept it.

## **February 2**

(Mal.3:1-4; Ps.24:7-10; Heb.2:14-18; Lk.2:22-40)

Upon waking this morning I found myself rather touched by trepidation, somewhat fearful that I might have to undergo further dark nights of the soul before I come to Jesus in heaven. (Insights gained from Scripture bring wisdom, but also the devil's temptations to doubt.) And so, how reassured I am on this Presentation of the Lord upon hearing the readings.

We have a great king, mighty in battle, who has defeated the powers of darkness and death, who has grown with us in this world and knows our pain and suffering. We need but turn to this Child and His innocence, who even upon His birth - and now proclaimed at His Presentation - became the true Light that illumines all men.

In you we take refuge, Lord,  
and you conquer death itself.  
What need we fear?

(Readings particularly poignant for my widowed friend, who is with us again at Mass this morning - she shows herself a pillar of trust in God, saying we have "no control" over when that day may come.)

## **February 3**

(2Sm.18:9-10,14,24-25,30-19:3; Ps.86:1-6;  
Mk.5:21-43)

I needed the blessing of my throat on this the feast day of St. Blase, particularly after reading poorly and with little concentration. (Though perhaps not entirely my fault... I was somewhat concerned that no one would know who Absalom is - especially since yesterday was a solemnity - and also, this must be one of the poorest jobs of editing I've seen.)

And aren't so many victimized by the medical profession as was the old woman. Where is the faith of the doctors, as well as the people?

I hear today of the mystic who was involved in Mother Angelica's healing; she will be in the area Sunday.

And my vision is cleansed upon visiting an art gallery at school.

Faith is most needed, indeed, Lord.  
Let us come to you with such trust,  
and hear your voice awaken us.

**February 4** (2Sm.24:2,9-17; Ps.32:1-2,5-7; Mk.6:1-6)

If only we had no guile in our spirits.  
If only we trusted in the Lord,  
and in His providence...

Asked by a student (as part of an assignment)  
several questions on population control, without  
hesitation I made clear my belief that such matters  
are in God's hands alone.

If David had left the population alone,  
how they might have grown about him.

And if we did not attempt to make Jesus into our own  
image of Him, if we simply accepted His presence in  
our lives - how we each might grow... On such holy  
food would we be fed.

Lord, I would that my life were in your hands alone.  
May I be guided always by your Spirit.  
Take all the guile from me.

(Actually, spoke also with another student about  
Henry VIII's efforts at 'population control' in  
his desperate attempts at fathering a male heir -  
which served only to divide the Church.)

## **February 5**

(1Kgs.2:1-4,10-12; 1Chr.29:10-12; Mk.6:7-13)

David is dying, and so he gives Solomon sovereignty;  
Jesus will die, and so He sends His apostles forth...

With the Lord is power and authority over all that is  
unclean; the devil that remains in the temple of my body  
must be purged away.

We are not beasts; we should never act so.  
Only living under the reign of God,  
obedient to His commands,  
will we endure.

Though upon entering a town we must seem like its inhabitants,  
we should ever be citizens of heaven.  
There is no other way,  
for there is no life apart from Him.

Lord, make us your faithful disciples.  
Lead me, Lord, I pray.

## **February 6**

(Sir.47:2-11; Ps.18:31,47,50-51; Mk.6:14-29)

The Lord forgave David his sins,  
and we celebrate his accomplishments this day.  
Though John the Baptist was beheaded,  
yet the light that was coming into the world  
followed.

After two days of raw darkness, the sun shone brightly  
and clearly today, illuminating the streets of Jersey  
City this morning with its cleansing and forgiving rays,  
and brightening an all-white school building where I  
spend all the day at work.

What will they say of us, brothers and sisters,  
when we have gone - what report will the angels leave?

May the Lord take the deeds of our days;  
may we serve Him unto death,  
and so find radiant light awaiting us.

To heaven let us go, O Lord,  
cleansed of the vestiges of this life.

## **February 7**

(1Kgs.3:4-13; Ps.119:9-14; Mk.6:30-34)

Teach me, Lord, at great length  
and throughout my life.

Grant me thy wisdom and grace,  
that I might know the way to walk -  
for I am an ignorant man,  
not knowing right from wrong.

I do feel the Lord gracing me with His discernment of  
late - so often I need it. He teaches me His ways as  
I call upon Him, trust in Him, and allow Him to work  
in my life.

At soup kitchen, patience from one moment to next  
bears fruit every ten minutes...

In moments of temptation I call, and He answers.

Lord, you know that such wisdom has long been my prayer.  
Teach me to trust in you;  
shepherd me into your flock.

## **February 8**

(Is.6:1-8; Ps.138:1-5,7-8; 1Cor.15:1-11;  
Lk.5:1-11)

I find it fascinating and beautiful that these three great apostles - Isaiah, Paul, and Peter - sent by the Lord to speak His word in a mighty way, each of the three readily recognizes his unworthiness in genuine humility. Isaiah says, "Woe to me... For I am a man of unclean lips." Paul admits, "I am the least of the apostles." And Peter cries, "I am a sinful man." Before God, all are humbled - and so they are exalted.

Visiting an event with seven visionaries today,  
I'm not sure I found this humility there...  
Looking inside my soul this evening (at prayer meeting),  
I seek to be certain it is in me.

Who is humble shall be exalted;  
of this you can be certain.

Lord, in the smallest of your children,  
the least of your brothers,  
you shine most distinctly.

Help us to love them.

(I pick an old rag doll off the ground today,  
and serve at table.)



## **February 9**

(1Kgs.8:1-7,9-13; Ps.132:6-10; Mk.6:53-56)

The glory of the Lord filled the temple Solomon had built - and all the earth is filled with His glory, for all the earth is His holy temple. All that is is holy, and we must radiate His glory wherever we go.

At the mechanic's shop I say my rosary as I await my car, attempting to bring the presence of God to this place... While tutoring a student I am transported to a dream of heaven, a dream of perfect purity... (There is such a glow about another student.) On this fair day in February all is in light.

If we but touch His glory, if we but receive Him well, how we shall be made whole in the Spirit of God!

(The children close in, but Jesus does not shy away.)

Let your glorious presence fill our lives, O Lord.  
May your angels protect us always;  
beneath their wings may we find a home with you.

## **February 10**

(1Kgs.8:22-23,27-30; Ps.84:2-5,10-11;  
Mk.7:1-13)

The readings speak to me clearly this morning of the difference between God's house on earth, as the temple Solomon consecrates or the temple of the body with which the Pharisees preoccupy themselves, and God's home in heaven - the eternal kingdom. We need the church building even as we need our bodies as long as we exist on this plane, but this need must never eclipse our worshipping "in spirit and truth." If the heart is good, then the tree shall bear good fruit.

And as we gather tonight to collaborate toward the renewal of our parish, our prayer must certainly be that our hearts be set on serving Christ - then our plans will be genuine and bear fruit. For if the Lord is not with us, in vain will we labor.

Lord, I long to rest in your eternal home;  
may all our efforts here  
serve to bring us unto you.

## **February 11**

(Is.66:10-14; Ps.37:5-6,30-31,39-40;  
Lk.2:27-35)

On this feast of Our Lady of Lourdes I seek the blessings which abound in the graces poured forth through our Mother. The wisdom I need, the purity I lack, I know can be fulfilled through her intercession. So again I confess my sins to God today and beg His strength and guidance, that I might be presented to Him whole and entire.

This week dedicated to chastity it is most appropriate to seek the nourishment and healing of our Mother.

Lord, be with us this day for good.

Dear Mother, pray for the conversion of our hearts.

## February 12

(1Kgs.11:4-13; Ps.106:3-4,35-37,40;  
Mk.7:24-30)

Of demons and their invitation  
and expulsion...

Why would we join ourselves to evil practices?  
Why can we not accept the gifts of God  
and please Him?

Why is it several men get together tonight  
and jointly do what none as individuals  
would prefer?

How is it the folly of youth can follow us unto age?

In a bar tonight (for brother's bachelor party)  
I take up a single glass of wine - but this poison  
has no effect upon my soul - the power of God keeps  
me clean of the darkness, and I leave it behind...

God offers such blessings,  
and we turn to such curses.

Lord, may the evil of this world  
never break in upon the refuge I take in thee.  
May I never waste the gifts you give.

Expel the demons from our midst,  
though we be not worthy of thee.

## **February 13**

(1Kgs.11:29-32,12:19; Ps.81:9-15; Mk.7:31-37)

Oh the deafness of our ears, the hardness of our hearts -

So many blessings the Lord would have given  
the Israelites, but... how sad it is.  
So many miracles the Lord would work in our lives,  
if only...

A man's hearing aid rings before and throughout Mass and  
the priest's sermon, which directly draws the 'deafness'  
parallel between Solomon, who 'saw' not the hardness of  
his heart and so fell into tragic ignorance, and he who  
though physically incapable of hearing nevertheless had  
an open heart for the Lord and, so, heard and was healed.

I would my heart were open. I would I really lived  
the Word and life of Jesus and was no hypocrite, but...

Forgive me, Lord, my deafness to your Word.  
Open my heart that I might hear.

(There is some discussion of a handicapped man who  
requests a cart that would allow him to travel the  
links and so play on the PGA tour. This before  
a cousin born with a breathing problem. And some  
discussion of partial-birth abortion and selective  
birth... And what if I were to say I think those  
who would kill babies with Down's Syndrome should  
not be allowed to live - though I never would?)

And tomorrow my brother is to marry.)

## **February 14**

(Gn.2:18-24; Ps.145:8-10,15,17-18;  
1Cor.12:31-13:8a; Mt.19:3-6)

The creation of woman, the compassion of God, the love that is eternal, and the unity of man and wife... it is my brother's wedding day.

While back home others feed the masses at our soup kitchen in J.C. (reference to daily reading), hopefully destroying idols, here in Florida I celebrate my brother's wedding.

I suppose I thought I'd never see him marry; it was special. Tears certainly came to my eyes as I realized the beauty of this sacrament and that my little brother was taking his part in it.

A special day of family celebration.  
May God bless the bride and groom  
and all marriages  
in these difficult times.

Lord, may our hearts be set on you,  
and may it be faith in you which feeds us.

## February 15

(Jer.17:5-8; Ps.1:1-4,6,40:5;  
1Cor.15:12,16-20; Lk.6:17,20-26)

"If our hopes are limited to this life only,  
we are the most pitiable of men."

I find the key to comprehension of today's theme here in those lines. How else can one understand the distinction between the true path which is nourished and blessed, and the false way that leads to destruction? We must believe in heaven.

Sometimes it seems confusing - in one place it says that blest are the hungry, in another that the blest shall be nourished. How can we be poor if we are blessed with riches? The distinction must be made between earth and heaven: the flesh is of no avail; only the spirit matters. So our blessing consists in doing the work of the Lord, in "bearing fruit" in His name. Our mouths must be open like baby birds awaiting food, and the Lord shall fill us with spiritual gifts.

And though circumstances present cause for trouble,  
I triumph over aggravation.

Lord, let me stay on the heavenly path to thee.  
Forgive my concern for the flesh.

## **February 16**

(Jas.1:1-11; Ps.119:67-68,71-72,75-77;  
Mk.8:11-13)

Wisdom is found in the cross;  
and the cross is our only sign.  
If we endure, if we lay down our lives,  
we shall find Christ.

I realize this day in prayer that we as Christians  
are called to be leaven for the world, to be salt  
and light; when the world looks upon us, it will  
see but a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds, ready  
to be crushed underfoot - but from that seed a tree,  
a tree of life, shall grow, though they see not how.

A Christian is called to suffer; a Christian is called  
to die - as Christ has shown upon the cross. No other  
religion or creed would savor such a message and such  
a king; to others His cross is scandal or folly. But  
to us it is life, is that which brings life to the world.  
Are you ready to lay down your life so, as our Christ?  
Is this wisdom to you? Do you understand this love?  
Or is the sign insufficient?

Lord, your cross is life to me.  
Increase my wisdom;  
let me live this sign.  
In all I do let me lay down my life.

(To leave extended family here in Florida tomorrow.  
Found considerable peace and prayer in chapel alone  
today... even (especially) in marriage, we must  
sacrifice our lives.)



## **February 17**

(Jas.1:12-18; Ps.94:12-15,18-19; Mk.8:14-21)

"He wills to bring us to birth with a word spoken in truth," but birth is not easy, and we are resistant. We may even know it is by His word alone that we live. But ignorant and afraid, we turn away...

Now comes the Holy Spirit, and by this grace our eyes are opened and our ears hear. By this power we shall become whom the Lord would make us. By His Spirit the world in which we live shall be changed, shall be renewed - this Word shall bear fruit.

The rain which fell in Florida now falls in New Jersey, but soon the rain shall pass, and if not here, we shall know its rays in heaven.

(Saw show concerning Robert Kennedy this evening.)

Come, Holy Spirit,  
and fill us with what the Father would have us be;  
teach us all His ways.

**February 18** (Jas.1:19-27; Ps.15:1-5; Mk.8:22-26)

Touch my eyes again, Lord, that I might see clearly  
and live your perfect law of love.

(Today my eyes are indeed tired  
and tending to forget what they have seen.)

## **February 19**

(Jas.2:1-9; Ps.34:2-7; Mk.8:27-33)

God's standard of suffering is one hard to understand...  
but so necessary for birth to new life.

I find rejection again in my dream of marriage.  
The Lord's chastisement I accept; if it is my cross  
to be alone, let it be so. (But yet have I to fully  
realize this call.)

And re James' warning: I actually make a direct  
comparison of my own "shabby" dress to a fellow  
worker's elegant style...

How will we find the mind of Christ?  
When will we judge according to His standards?

Dear Lord, help us look upon the heart  
and see the cross that is fixed there.  
Help us to live your way.

## February 20

(Jas.2:14-24,26; Ps.112:1-6; Mk.8:34-9:1)

James' Protestant refutation: faith without works is dead. Christ became man. We are human beings, not angels. We must put flesh and blood to our faith.

And Jesus' call to carry our cross inspires me this morning, making me ready to go wherever He calls me.

The cross is made of wood, wood of the tree which grows from the earth. Our bodies are made of flesh, flesh drawn from that same earth. It is by these we live and endure. It is by these we shall come to salvation.

(I hear a story today of a man who killed himself, thinking this would bring him closer to God. This is confusion the devil has wrought. And so it is with a man who works not to support his family... Our bodies are provided by God that we might put food on the table, food that is offered to Him.)

O Lord, I see not clearly or completely  
the work to which you call me.  
But I find my heart ready to be offered to thee.

Lead me forth, O Lord, in your flesh and blood.

## February 21

(Jas.3:1-10; Ps.12:2-5,7-8; Mk.9:2-13)

It is hard to be a teacher, for only Jesus is the Son of God, and so only He speaks with authority. But He teaches us...

I receive application for graduate school in Catechesis today and call another college. I know I fall short, I know I am not right - but with the Lord's blessing...

And the priest encourages me to enter the seminary, but I do not think I could be held to that strict an account.

Jesus, though I am sinful

I do love you,

and I pray your light will shine through me.

May I rise from the dead with you.

## **February 22**

(1Sm.26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; Ps.103:1-4,8,10,12-13;  
1Cor.15:45-49; Lk.6:27-38)

The Lord is good and forgiving;  
    all our sins He washes away in His blood.  
Should we not show forgiveness toward others?  
If we are His body, His children,  
    if we are Christians we must love and forgive all.

The more we know how the Lord has forgiven us,  
the more we see our sins and seek His forgiveness,  
    the more we will be able to forgive.

I forgive you, my sister, my brother,  
    please forgive me...

Yes, all are 'anointed' by God as was Saul to David,  
for all are made in the image of God,  
    even us,  
    and so all must be loved by us.

We *can* be perfect as our Father is perfect,  
    as Jesus is perfect -  
    God's grace will make us so.

Lord, thank you for your forgiveness.  
Let it be fulfilled in me,  
    and let my forgiveness of others be complete.

In your love is power -  
    Holy Spirit, bless us so.

## **February 23**

(Jas.3:13-18; Ps.19:8-10,15; Mk.9:14-29)

By prayer even war has been driven out  
and will be driven out,  
out of the heart of mankind,  
not to return.

I see tonight a program on the Reagan years of the 80's,  
when the world was on the verge of catastrophe, near to  
being burned to the ground by the pride and insensitivity  
of the human heart. Then I prayed, the Pope prayed,  
millions prayed that we might live - and the coldness  
was defeated, the evil tide was turned. To this day  
repercussions continue, threatening the stability of our  
earthly existence (even as the wind whips along outside  
my window). But today again the proud posturing does  
not bring heartless war as Iraq agrees with the nations  
of the world to work in diplomacy. Again this country  
is spared from unholy acts of violence.

If we in peace can forget the evil done us,  
it will disappear into the night  
as if it never were...

And we shall live in peace again.

Lord, may this century pass,  
leaving further expectations of evil unfulfilled.  
Holy Spirit, come and drive out the evil at the heart of man;  
by prayer may peace be ushered in.

## **February 24**

(Jas.4:1-10; Ps.55:7-11,23; Mk.9:30-37)

We must but humble ourselves before God,  
before God and for man.

If we humble ourselves as children,  
we shall be light to the world.

O Lord, all warring take from my soul;  
all judgment remove from my heart.

May I die to this world as gracefully as thou hast.  
May I love my enemy and love death  
and so conquer it with you, dear Lord.

(On this the eve of Lent, let us begin to weep and mourn  
for our sin,  
that God might bless us abundantly.)

Today I long for my eyes to be opened  
to the goodness, the greatness,  
the 'betterness' of others -  
that I might learn from them and grow,  
that I might no longer be proud.)



## **February 25**

(Jl.2:12-18; Ps.51:3-6,12-14,17;  
2Cor.5:20-6:2; Mt.6:1-6,16-18)

Something beautiful there is about Ash Wednesday,  
something joyous, because it is a day of truth -  
a day on which we recognize our sin. And with the  
blessing of repentance comes the grace of cleansing...

I find particular joy and purity in Confession this day,  
and in the realization of the goodness of others around  
me, in the image of Jesus they are - this is love of  
neighbor so precious to our souls.

And eating nothing during the day is my special gift,  
which is the catalyst for blessings.

O Lord, bless our fasting and prayer;  
may our hearts weep throughout this humble time.  
Strengthen our resolve to renounce this world  
and love.

## **February 26**

(Dt.30:15-20; Ps.1:1-4,6,40:5; Lk.9:22-25)

A soul check one day into Lent;  
are we truly prepared to lay down our lives?

It is time to pass over into the promised land.  
The day is here  
and this is the river we must cross.

Only by losing our lives, dying to sin,  
will we come to resurrection glory.

Lord, take all sin from my heart;  
I offer all to you.  
May I embrace your cross and so find life.

(In our simple sacrifices, God is known.)

## **February 27**

(Is.58:1-9; Ps.51:3-6,18-19; Mt.9:14-15)

I notice an interesting irony in the juxtaposition of today's readings - whether or not the illumination is intended, I do not know, but I think there is merit to it.

In the gospel Jesus tells us His disciples will fast when He is gone. The supposed meaning of this is that they will mourn His absence. But Isaiah tells us a true fast consists not in this mere sorrowing but in doing the works most endemic to the Christian life: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, setting prisoners free, etc. And we may surmise that we must 'fast' in this way when He is no longer with us because then we become His body, doing His work.

Another odd irony this day was a man's declaring to people in church between Masses that "There is nothing" - no Jesus, no God. At the time I was praying Morning Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Having also just received Jesus' Body and Blood, I could not have been more impervious to his words. (I didn't even think to turn around to see him.) Thus what might have seemed a temptation actually proved an angel of conviction, showing me how vain it is to doubt.

Lord, forgive me when my fast falls short  
of your blessed glory.  
Make me more like you in all I do.

## **February 28**

(Is.58:9-14; Ps.86:1-6; Lk.5:27-32)

Yes, we feed the hungry today at the soup kitchen;  
we do our best, and it brings us joy.  
The Lord certainly blesses those who welcome Him  
to dinner.

I completely rearrange my apartment today, moving  
virtually every piece of furniture, most to another  
room. I hope this expresses a change of heart and that  
the Lord will feel more welcome in my home and I will  
live more fully with Him.

Restore my home and my heart, Lord;  
come in and dwell with me.

## **March 1**

(Dt.26:4-10; Ps.91:1-2,10-15; Rm.10:8-13; Lk.4:1-13)

First, we must recognize who we are and what God has done to save us. Once having found refuge in Him, we must proclaim His Name; we must witness to our faith. Then we shall find strength to overcome any temptation.

The devil is a subtle one, wily in his ways. Notice how he uses Scripture in his attempts to lead the Lord astray - note thus that Scripture can be twisted to evil purposes: we must know the whole of Scripture, the whole Truth...

Today I find the strongest sense of the painful blessing of the cross. I must go alone to nursing home (none others available) and minister communion for nearly three hours. Upon my return I cry without knowing just why. But I do understand the paradox of joy and suffering in the way of Christ. (I don't recall having such an overwhelming sense of mission since I was writing *Songs for Children of Light* and could not escape the Hand of God. I am too overwhelmed to lead a full prayer meeting tonight. I seek relaxation to fight fear of excess in the Lord... A Padre Pio third-class relic is given out by a member at end of meeting.)

Lord, I do wish to give all myself to you.  
Let not any cup pass from me  
that is in your will.

Give me strength and wisdom.

(Note: I was very thirsty when I returned from nursing home.)

**March 2** (Lv.19:1-2,11-18; Ps.19:8-10,15,Jn.6:63; Mt.25:31-46)

Jesus is reflected in all men; when we look into anyone's face we see His image, and we see ourselves.

This is my prayer this Lent:  
to see and love the Lord in all people.

(We are brothers, my friend.)

I love you, Jesus.  
May that love extend to all.  
(Thank you, Lord.)

"We are all the same person."

**March 3** (Is.55:10-11; Ps.34:4-7,16-19; Mt.6:7-15)

We live in the Word of God.  
We breathe in the Word of God.  
It is the Word of God that gives life;  
it nourishes all the just.

Let His Word come down from heaven  
and bless you.  
Let His will be bread for your life.  
May you know His grace making you clean  
and pure.

O Word of God, dwell with us this day.

(Today I hear the word of God,  
and He instructs me to penance for my sins -  
I welcome that word in my heart.

And I asked that somehow at work I might evangelize  
for Him; and right from my first appointment, without  
my manipulation, conversation turned to God.)

**March 4** (Jon.3:1-10; Ps.51:3-4,12-13,18-19; Lk.11:29-32)

Yes, the Ninevites listened to the call of the Lord,  
to the voice crying out to them -  
do we listen to the Son of God?

Jesus is with us even now, speaking to our hearts,  
inviting us to the kingdom. Offering His life  
for us, He enables us to turn from sin, and love.

So far, so good, this Lenten Season:  
the Lord sits refining and purifying my soul.  
Forty days and Jesus shall rise.

(Monasteries a subject today as I plan a trip  
to the Cloisters next week.)

May I continue to climb your mountain, O Lord;  
by your grace and mercy you lead and guide me.  
Let your voice ring like a church bell's call to prayer  
ever in my ear.

(Time at work today to read and proofread and pray -  
to retire a little from the world.)



## **March 5**

(Est.C:12,14-16,23-25; Ps.138:1-3,7-8; Mt.7:7-12)

Prayer: he asks. We pray to God and He hears us.  
Ask and it shall be given to you.

He rescues us from all our distress; He saves us. We  
need but trust in Him, and what blessings we shall find.

I think to give my whole life to prayer, my whole life  
to Jesus, in the poverty of a monk. Would I then better  
serve the salvation of this world of sin?

Take the room in which I dwell, O Lord.  
Enter in upon my knocking.  
May you and I be one, I pray.

(Someone pretends to take my picture  
upon finding me deep in prayer.)

**March 6** (Ez.18:21-28; Ps.130:1-8; Mt.5:20-26)

Along the way let us make our peace with all our brothers and sisters. Let us live in harmony with all men, awaiting the Lord's blessed coming.

Natural law states that sin produces evil, and so when we sin we enter into evil and separate ourselves from God. It is just so simple. And when we do good, we are with God. Just so.

But remember, the Lord wants all to live.

I love the Lord and thank Him this day for even as I feel myself slipping from solid resolve, He speaks these readings to strengthen me.

Forever let me be with you, dear Lord.  
Please accept my penance;  
thank you for your grace.

**March 7** (Dt.26:16-19; Ps.119:1-5,7-8; Mt.5:43-48)

"Hearken to His voice." "Love your enemies."  
To what love He calls us.  
To what perfection.

What more could we ask?  
(What blessings are ours!)

Obedience grant me, O Lord,  
to your voice inside of me.

(Continual problem with alcoholism today at soup kitchen,  
but my anger at individuals and at the milieu never robs  
me of my peace. And on way to Mass and at Holy Hour I  
think of my "enemies" - any such causes of disturbance -  
and pray for them, particularly: "Forgive them, for they  
know not what they do"... and so might I, too, be  
forgiven.)

## **March 8**

(Gn.15:5-12,17-18; Ps.27:1,7-9,13-14; Phil.3:17-4:1;  
Lk.9:28-36)

The Lord gives us hope, the Lord gives us promise -  
we must stand fast.

We will be changed one day; our dreams of eternity  
will become reality in Jesus' presence. He gives us  
the comfort we require day to day until that moment  
when we stand with Him.

Today I am sick, having caught a chill last night -  
but I believe I shall be well again.

Today I am asked to join a play already in process  
of production - people unable to find replacement for  
"Jesus". If this is Jesus' will for me in serving Him,  
let it be. If not, I will wait for that which He has  
in mind. (Perhaps something more 'real'.)

Lord, clear my mind and body  
in faithfulness to you.  
May your promise be sure in my life.

**March 9** (Dn.9:4-10; Ps.79:8-9,11,13,103:10; Lk.6:36-38)

The Lord has compassion on all His children;  
we must be the same.

When will I cease to judge?  
When will I be as one with all Christ's  
sisters and brothers?  
When will I find my place in His kingdom?  
When will I love?

The Lord forgives me this day,  
and by His grace I am able to stand and do.

Lord, my life is in your hands -  
so may I live it.

## **March 10**

(Is.1:10,16-20; Ps.50:8-9,16-17,21,23; Mt.23:1-12)

This day I am completely incapacitated by a stomach virus that draws the life out of me. As all leaves my system and my stomach feeds on itself, I wish my sin too were leaving me...

I am well enough this morning to proclaim repentance of first reading and psalm, but soon after enter into suffering, dying.

I don't want to suffer; I don't want to die. I don't want to commit the sins that would bring me to this fate. But sin is so persistent, and I am so weak...

Help me, Lord.

Save me from the fate of suffering without you.

Leave me not alone in my pain.

Take my sin away.

## **March 11**

(Jer.18:18-20; Ps.31:5-6,14-16; Mt.20:17-28)

In all this sickness I think the Lord is trying to teach me humility, though I do not understand it because I cannot see where I fall short: I think myself well and so I cannot be healed.

But I do know there is judgment in my heart that is almost endemic to my nature - when I see a person, I make a judgment.

Today in the supermarket, being so weak I was able to be more compassionate toward my fellow human beings - I saw the better side of them. More importantly, I saw their human side and that I am one of them. The Lord blesses me with health so often that I fail to feel for those in pain.

Yes, all around us are our persecutors; all around us are those who would plot against us. But we must see that we are one of them, and love them as Jesus has.

Forgive them, Lord, they know not what they do:  
Forgive me, Lord, I know not what I do.  
(Your love alone is true.)

## **March 12**

(Jer.17:5-10; Ps.1:1-4,6,40:5; Lk.16:19-31)

Jesus will rise from the dead, but still many will not believe - here He seeks to convince and convict the hardened hearts of the Pharisees...

I thank God I have risen from death with Jesus today;  
I again feel the nourishment of His living water.

What I most lacked in my sickness - and what left me most desolate - was prayer: unable to pray I wandered in a trackless waste. What joy I felt this morning upon waking and again communing with the Lord in prayer.

And I pray the compassion I've learned through my suffering, one instructive particularly of the pain all women I believe most experience, will bear fruit in the reality of my relationship with others.

Lord, nourish me always with the living water of prayer  
in your Name.

And may my cold, blind heart remain pierced  
and bleeding for others.

(In your love may I dwell, O Lord.)



## **March 13**

(Gn.37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Ps.105:5,16-21;  
Mt.21:33-43,45-46)

We are now the keepers of the vineyard;  
Christ's own blood is in the hands of our priests.  
But how well do we keep our brothers?

Lately I feel like such the betrayer.  
My words and my actions do not seem to ring true,  
do not seem to represent Christ.

I wander tired in the desert without Jesus,  
without Mary in my mind.

Would that I'd dream a vision  
that would set me free from this prison...  
Would that I'd stand fast with God.

Lord, why are your children so deceitful,  
so wicked of heart?  
Do turn all our sin into rays of light.  
(Holy Spirit, come and change our lives.)

## **March 14**

(Mic.7:14-15,18-20; Ps.103:1-4,8-12;  
Lk.15:1-3,11-32)

All I see in myself this morning is sin,  
and yet all I find in the readings and in  
confession  
is God's compassion.

Why, Lord?  
Why are you so kind?  
Why so forgiving?  
How can you accept me back in your arms,  
as disobedient as I can be?

Thank you, Lord,  
for that which I do not deserve.

## **March 15**

(Ex.3:1-8,13-15; Ps.103:1-4,6-8,11;  
1Cor.10:1-6,10-12; Lk.13:1-9)

Be on guard: the Lord *is* compassionate and merciful and saves those who cry out to Him, but fruit is required of us lest we die.

Doing the will of the Lord must be our food day to day.

I believe it was one of the Fathers of the Church who said: Do not despair; one of the thieves was saved. Do not presume; one of the thieves was condemned. This seems to be the crux of today's readings. We must know that salvation is offered forth and freely given by Christ, but we must live according to His way to receive it.

The Lord is revealing to me that I am (always) a thief in need of mercy. For this consciousness I am grateful to Him; however, I am most sad for all my sin.

O Lord, make even my sin work for good in your kingdom;

    may even it bear fruit in your light.

Turn my heart toward you and set it right.

## **March 16**

(2Kgs.5:1-15; Ps.42:2-3,43:3-4; Lk.4:24-30)

We must not be of this place; it is our only hope  
of salvation from the Lord.

The King calls you to leave your home and family  
and come away with Him. Go with He who is the light  
of your eyes and the breath of your soul.

I have no ties to this turf and this territory.

I believe the Lord can heal me as He has healed  
Naaman. I know I need but trust in His Word and I will  
be made whole.

There is but one God on earth, and it is Jesus.

O Lord, may I take no offense at your will,  
at the words you speak -  
may I but enter your cleansing shower of love.

(Our new pastor flies overseas to speak at a  
conference  
on marriage and the family.)

## **March 17**

(Dn.3:25,34-43; Ps.25:4-9; Mt.18:21-35)

For the seventy times seventh time I wrong the Lord  
and seek His gracious forgiveness...

And I pray that any against whom I hold a grudge or  
keep a harsh word or judgment may be released from  
any bondage I thus hold them in, and that the light  
of the Lord will fall upon them; so may I be released  
myself from the darkness of judgment's prison.

The greatest gift God gives us is the grace to forgive,  
to hold no man in guilt to break the temptation of  
the devil, to dispatch condemnation upon others and  
see that it is indeed not our brothers and sisters  
who bear culpability, but the prince of lies.

Shower your light of forgiveness upon the earth, O Lord.  
Holy Spirit, come, and wash away our sins.

## **March 18**

(Dt.4:1,5-9; Ps.147:12-13,15-16,19-20; Mt.5:17-19)

The Word of the Lord covers the earth like snow  
upon a field;  
His command reaches into every corner  
of our lives -

by it we become whole.

Today I contemplate the crucifix in prayer. Jesus' love is the fulfillment of the law and here we have the truest sign of that love. I pray His passion and death reach into the recesses of my being and root out all sin, that by this love every "letter of the law", every "smallest part of a letter", will find completion in me.

I love you, Lord.  
Thank you, Word of God,  
for becoming flesh and blood.

May I follow in your way.

## **March 19**

(2Sm.7:4-5,12-14,16; Ps.89:2-5,27,29,37;  
Rm.4:13,16-18,22; Lk.2:41-51)

Today on the feast of St. Joseph we celebrate the line through which Jesus has come to us. He is the Son of David even as He is the Son of Joseph; He is the promise of Abraham, the fulfillment of faith; and, of course, He is Son of God, the Father.

I suppose it is appropriate on this day to say that I have been considering what it would be like to marry and have children. Is this anything the Lord would have for me?

O Lord, let us live in the Father's house  
with you.

(Note: Speaking of the importance of balance in marriage, I do proclaim today (inspired by God) that there is no more important relationship on earth than that of man and woman.)

## **March 20**

(Hos.14:2-10; Ps.81:6-11,14,17; Mk.12:28-34)

"You are not far from the reign of God."

Experiencing the love and mercy of the Lord, we have a foretaste of the kingdom to come. Approaching the Eucharist we near the presence of the eternal One. In His words and in His sacraments He comes to us.

Glory to the Lord, who washes us clean in Confession!  
Praise Him who gives us His Body and His Blood!  
How can we but love Him?

I offer my whole life to the Lord and seek acceptance of whatever His will might be.

A straight path let me walk, O Lord,  
the one that leads to you.



## **March 21**

(Hos.6:1-6; Ps.51:3-4,18-21,Hos.6:6; Lk.18:9-14)

Lord, may we not pass from your presence  
like the dew from the morning earth.

Each morning I enter the house of God  
and commune with my Savior...  
but what becomes of me upon departure?  
How well do I live His love throughout the day?  
Is my whole life a prayer?

Let us beat our breasts, brothers and sisters,  
all the day long.

Lord, it is I who am "grasping, crooked, adulterous..."  
All that is not holy, all that is not true,  
remove from my corrupted soul -  
that I might remain with you.

## **March 22**

(Jos.5:9-12; Ps.34:2-7,9; 2Cor.5:17-21;  
Lk.15:1-3,11-32)

We were lost, but in Christ are found -  
Reconciliation Sunday.

The Israelites step into the Promised Land.  
The Prodigal Son returns home.  
Yes, we are called to be reconciled to the Lord,  
to leave all strange lands behind  
and enter into the communion of saints,  
to be seated in heavenly places with God.

The kingdom of heaven is not a place,  
and so it is everywhere -  
and we are called to be there with Mary,  
the angels, and the saints...  
and Jesus.

The world is conquered and crucified;  
accept the abundant grace and goodness of Christ  
and enter the eternal feast of heaven.

Lord, bring me there.

## **March 23**

(Is.65:17-21; Ps.30:2,4-6,11-13; Jn.4:43-54)

We need no signs and wonders to believe  
    Jesus is the Christ -  
    He is the air we breathe,  
    and the faith we hold...  
His presence upon my tongue  
cleanses my lips of all deceit.

He is my own,  
    and all I have shall be offered Him.

"He and his whole household thereupon became believers."  
At eight days the Israelite male was to be circumcised.  
The prison guard and "all his family" were baptized.  
(Acts 16:33)

(Yes, even our newborns must be baptized,  
    must be brought in to belief in Christ.)

I thank the Lord the sun does shine today...  
(So much darkness we have had in a time marked  
by severe weather throughout the world.)

Lord, let us not die in the sadness of this life,  
    but bring us into your peaceful kingdom.

## **March 24**

(Ez.47:1-9,12; Ps.46:2-6,8-9; Jn.5:1-3,5-16)

The waters of life quicken the hearts of all beings;  
they go forth from the throne of God  
to dispense health to all in need.  
Jesus is the Water that issues forth  
from the Father's presence:  
it is He who heals our ills  
by His word alone.

Wash me in the pool of your love, O Lord.  
May I partake of your fruit and find life.

## March 25

(Is.7:10-14,8:10; Ps.40:7-11; Heb.10:4-10;  
Lk.1:26-38)

A virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son who shall shepherd His people Israel. He shall come and accomplish the will of the Father, that we may be made holy unto God.

And Mary continues to point us toward her Son;  
she remains the maidservant of the Lord,  
calling us all unto heavenly glory,  
continuing to do His will.

Full of Grace, may the will of the Father  
be accomplished in us, too.  
Lord of all, may we indeed bear you in our lives,  
meditating day and night  
on the grace you give us.

(Yet do I struggle to fulfill the will of God in my life:  
I do continue with a writing (*Will to Love*) today,  
but it is so long since I have practiced music...

I find time for meditative prayer,  
but how thorough is my fasting?  
And do I hear the annunciation of the Lord's will  
for my life?)

## **March 26**

(Ex.32:7-14; Ps.106:4,19-23; Jn.5:31-47)

The One True God must be worshipped and adored -  
He alone.

No distractions.

I love you, my Lord and my God.

## **March 27**

(Ws.2:1,12-22; Ps.34:17-21,23; Jn.7:1-2,10,25-30)

As the walls begin to close upon Jesus, we hear of the suffering Servant as portrayed in Wisdom.

Tonight I read (with another) *Asleep in the Garden*, a long poem on the Agony written a few years ago. And on this 80 day I sweat myself, at cemetery with sun beating down, and at bowling alley, where I lose all energy.

Also spoke of a young woman with an associate today. We both perceived how set apart she is - though very friendly, she is not like other ladies, not participating in their brand of levity, and accepting ostracization because of it... Her genuineness and innocence are very evident, much as he who is offensive to the wicked in first reading.

Lord, strengthen us in all our trials;  
may our refuge always be to shine your light.  
Carry us through all darkness around us,  
and let us remain as a humble child.

## **March 28**

(Jer.11:18-20; Ps.7:2-3,9-12; Jn.7:40-53)

They hatch plots, but they are useless,  
for the Lord shall escape from them all -  
as shall we.

When we are weak, He is strong.  
In death we are completely without power;  
it is then His power shall shine brightest.  
(Say so at soup kitchen this afternoon.)

Lord, all of our lives be laid down before you,  
that all of our lives may be raised up.

(P.S. I receive letter of rejection from Permanent  
Diaconate even as I bring a latecomer to the soup  
kitchen, who'd been beaten and robbed last night,  
into my home to give him a few dollars and a few  
things...  
then play a rather splendid game of golf.

Days becoming complete of late.)



## **March 29**

(Is.43:16-21; Ps.126:1-6; Phil.3:8-14; Jn.8:1-11)

Our sin behind us, we shall push on to new life.  
(In Christ we shall find it.)

This evening at start of prayer meeting, opened immediately to Ezekial's passage addressing Jerusalem as a "harlot" going after her idolatrous lovers. How like the woman in the gospel she is. I see that the leaders of the nation bring forward their own sin for condemnation, and Jesus shows them what mercy is.

This gospel always reminds me of Christ's grace in my own life some fifteen years ago.  
Am I upon such purity again?

We move on, not looking back, knowing the Lord has greater things in store.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.  
Come like the torrents in the Southern desert,  
and make us clean.

## **March 30**

(Dn.13:41-62; Ps.23:1-6; Jn.8:12-20)

The testimony of the Lord is true -  
the Spirit be at your side.

On this the (33rd) birthday of my sister, I feel her presence as I have not for some time. And there is a purity and light that stays with me throughout the day. It is an angelic joy... Though I am alone, she is with me.

For the first time in a long time (a year or more?), someone else lectured at morning Mass. Of late there has been movement in my life away from the altar, characterized particularly by rejection of diaconate. Where does the Lord lead me? I am ready.

Also, Blessed Mother's message at Medugorje helps me to realize it is not important what we do in life; it is how we live day to day - how we live, how we love... God exists in each moment.

Spirit of the Living God, testify to truth in my life,  
and let me live so true.  
Be at my side to guide me through each hour,  
that I might be at peace.

(Young woman who read was leader of our thriving parish youth group... what to do about other kids hanging about... Susanna exonerated as sister exonerated from flying rumors.)

**March 31** (Nm.21:4-9; Ps.102:2-3,16-21; Jn.8:21-30)

Let us cry out to the Lord and He will hear us,  
and He will nail our sins to the cross.  
Where Jesus has gone, it is difficult to follow,  
but faith will show the way.

(Five days of summer to end this month -  
what is becoming of this world?  
I only pray the Lord lead me home.)

Jesus, lead us forth from this desert;  
save us from our sin, Son of God.

**April 1** (Dn.3:14-20,91-92,95; Dn.3:52-56; Jn.8:31-42)

From God comes all power;  
He sits on high  
and even the flames of hellfire  
are in His hands.

Who is your father?  
Whom do you resemble?  
According to whose will do you act?

Do you believe in Him who sent the Son into this world?  
Then live according to His word, in such faith  
as saved the three from fire.

Glorious are you above all that is, O God our Father.  
Assist us in placing our trust in you  
and finding your blessed protection.

(Today darkness covers the land  
and rains pour down from heaven,  
even as the temperature falls.)

**April 2** (Gn.17:3-9; Ps.105:4-9; Jn.8:51-59)

If we remain true to the covenant of blood Jesus has shed for us, we shall live - and the promise of Abraham shall be our own. The Lord will never leave us; He will make us His sons.

God exists always and forever, as does Jesus the Christ. If we join ourselves to Him, we shall be the same.

God exists in this moment, and the passing years mean little. What we must do is live according to His law of love.

Someone dies today, but he is not dead  
if he is with Jesus.  
Someone was born today, but she can have no life  
apart from Jesus.

Jesus is Life: He *Is*.  
One with the Father let us be.

**April 3** (Jer.20:10-13; Ps.18:2-7; Jn.10:31-42)

Whenever we "misstep", the Lord is there to save;  
His sacrifice has been made.

What a blessing it is "to believe in Him,"  
what a comfort to have Him in our hearts.

When we call, He answers;  
He protects us from the grave...  
He suffered so much for our sakes.

Save us from our sins, dear Lord;  
be with us this night.

**April 4** (Ez.37:21-28; Jer.31:10-13; Jn.11:45-56)

Preparation for the glorious entry of Jesus  
into Jerusalem - glorious, yes, and painful,  
for death lurks soon after...

The fulfillment of the promise is foretold;  
the blessings are in the wind -  
but the road must be walked.

I say, "Yes, Lord", this morning at Holy Hour  
to all the Lord's blessings,

And tonight a most wonderful gift -  
I find my voice;  
I find *Songs for Children of Light*.

After plodding endlessly for years, futilely trying  
to make the songs full, real, complete...  
I begin to sing in key with guitar, with expression,  
and the song is there - here is art.

Where it can lead, how can I know?...  
But I know the resurrection will follow  
the Lord's crucifixion.

Lord, put together the pieces of my life and art;  
let my soul be fulfilled in thee.  
Turn our mourning into joy.

(Songs of particular note: "Artists" and "Weightless  
Crucifixion"... I may not need these vocal cords  
in the eternal life of the Spirit, but here my heart  
must be sung.)

## April 5

(Is.50:4-7; Ps.22:2,8-9,17-20,23-24; Phil.2:6-11;  
Lk.22:14-23:56)

Palm/Passion Sunday.

He humbles Himself. He bears the taunting  
and the spitting and the blows - He dies for us.

Why? Why does He who is eternal die in our dark time?  
He has no need, except His love for us.

Are we ready? Holy Week is upon us.  
The time has come.

Lord, may your blessings be with us this week,  
that we might stand with you.

(I nearly break down while reading the part of Jesus at  
Mass as I come to His words to the women of Jerusalem -  
"The days are coming when they will say, 'Happy are  
the sterile...'" So it is in our abortion age.  
At least our mayor, who speaks at a Communion breakfast,  
is pro-life. Perhaps there is hope:

A palm cross on my sister's grave as a tulip begins to bud;  
at the end of the stations of the cross is the resurrection.)



**April 6** (Is.42:1-7; Ps.27:1-3,13-14; Jn.12:1-11)

Out of the dungeon of darkness we must be taken;  
I would assist others from thence,  
and yet how much in its shadows I still am.

Up from the darkness of death we must come  
to sit at table with Jesus,  
to find our refuge in His house.

We must not be anxious, nor turn our hearts  
to extinguishing the only light that is in us -  
all we have must be delivered unto Him.

Open my eyes, yet so blinded by sin, Lord.  
Cleanse my heart, still so wrought in darkness.  
A child of light make me, dear Lord,  
risen from the dead to serve thee.

(I write of hell today (for *Will to Love*);  
coming from experience, it is not a pleasant write.  
But I must remember the Lord has drawn me from there.)

**April 7** (Is.49:1-6; Ps.71:1-6,15,17; Jn.13:21-33,36-38)

The sword of the Word of Truth shall go forth and convert the nations; that which was to be from the beginning of time will come to pass - but at what price: the betrayal and death of the Lord. Through His blood the world is reborn.

"Though I thought I had toiled in vain,  
and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength,  
Yet my reward is with the Lord,  
my recompense is with my God."

Death seems to take all,  
but all is only being born.

And it does seem I am upon a breakthrough with *Songs*.  
After toiling uselessly so long, the songs seem  
to be coming to life, by the blessing of the Lord.  
Will they yet be the cross I carry?

Lord, forgive our betrayal, our turning away -  
bring us unto you in your kingdom,  
where our lives shall be complete.

**April 8** (Is.50:4-9; Ps.69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34; Mt.26:14-25)

"I looked for sympathy, but there was none."

Alone. Alone He will endure "buffets and spitting."  
Alone He is subject to betrayal.  
He is left so alone.

I feel such loneliness today, to my bones.  
I do not understand it.  
I look to find joy,  
    but am left with dolor.

And I cry for the sorrows of this world.

Lord, prepare my heart to endure these days.  
With you I am not alone.

## **April 9**

(Ex.12:1-8,11-14; Ps.116:12-13,15-18,1Cor.10:6;  
1Cor.11:23-26; Jn.13:1-15)

Holy Thursday. Always a special day.

All the day my heart was set on the angels and saints in heaven. I felt the angels by my side and the presence of the saints. The scripture, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," sets the tone. The angels and saints are in heaven, and if we think of them we can find our place there. Our hearts should be set on heavenly things; we should be seated there with the Lord. God first. And then with clarity of mind and purity of heart we can effectively act in others' lives.

Jesus who sits always with the Father humbles Himself to wash our feet. He gives us His body and His blood. Because He is in heaven, He is well with us.

And the angels and saints become more real this night during our pilgrimage to eight churches. The good spirits were present in the houses of God, and the saints were all around me in my brothers and sisters.

Set my mind on you and your kingdom, Lord,  
that I might well accomplish your will in this world.

## April 10

(Is.52:13-53:12; Ps.31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25;  
Heb.4:14-16,5:7-9; Jn.18:1-19:42)

Good Friday. Behold, the King of the Jews!

Indeed here is the Suffering Servant, the least of all who  
is the greatest - He who would be ground to make  
food for believers.

How weak He is; how much He bears.  
How spurned He is, He so glorified.  
Truly here is the king of the Jews;  
no one else could be so blessed by persecution...  
the innocent Lamb, the Son of God.

Here is your king, crucified as a criminal.  
Here are we Christians, to carry such a cross.

My fast today is severe - to sweat and dizziness.  
But it is easy with my Lord. (And it is blessed.)

These days are most difficult to bear...  
only through Him.

Lord, save me from the darkness,  
from the temptation all around -  
one more day of dying.

(In His death all sin is gone.  
In it is hope of life everlasting...  
During glorious mysteries in church,  
my cap I see standing on end.)

## April 11

Holy Saturday - no Mass during the day...  
though I do sit in on a funeral service,  
saying my rosary in the sanctuary.

Death is fulfilled, and new life to come -

(Gn.1:1-2:2; Gn.22:1-18; Ex.14:15-15:1; Is.54:5-14; Ez.36:16-28;  
Rom.6:3-11; Lk.24:1-12)

Easter Vigil - the most glorious night of the year:  
the highest of holy Masses...  
chanting and music and reading and lights,  
baptisms and confirmation and blessings abound  
as Christ rises to new life in each of our hearts.

And following Confession this morning my heart is made  
ready for the fullness of joy present by the Spirit this  
night.

Welcome back, Jesus! We missed you terribly.  
Remain with us now.  
Allelujah!

## April 12

(Acts 10:34,37-43; Ps.118:1-2,16-17,22-24;  
Col.3:1-4; Jn.20:1-9)

Resurrection Sunday.

See and believe. Know the Lord is risen from the dead.

No longer does He lie in a tomb. No more is the Passion of death upon Him: He is risen! And to heaven now He takes us.

Though I am little able to rise today, from exhaustion, and spend most of the day in rest, I do know the Lord is raised up. (It is in the very air.)

And so the drama so akin to human life is complete.  
(Though this is no play.)

Lord, may I rest in your wounds  
now the day has come.  
Hide me in the shelter of your almighty wings,  
that I might ever work in you.

**April 13** (Acts 2:14,22-32; Ps.16:1-2,5,7-11; Mt.28:8-15)

The Lord is risen - we are to be fully joyful.  
For in Him is Life eternal.  
Hallelujah!

I am not afraid; I feel the morning light dawning  
in my heart today.

No corruption shall our bodies undergo.

Lord, let it be so.

(Children of God are we.)



**April 14** (Acts 2:36-41; Ps.33:4-5,18-20,22; Jn.20:11-18)

For sinners Jesus died;  
for sinners He was crucified,  
and for sinners He did rise.

Those who crucified Him repent and are baptized;  
she of so great sin is the first to see Him.

Rejoice, my brothers, for though you are as great  
a sinner, yet He has died (and risen) for you.

Let all the world rejoice and come to Him,  
for He is with the Father in heaven.

Such a sinner am I, Lord -  
send your Spirit into my heart.  
Let me never be separated from you.

## April 15

(Acts 3:1-10; Ps.105:1-9; Lk.24:13-35)

There are times in the day to pray  
and times of the day to sit and eat.  
There are blessings to be pronounced  
and Scripture to be understood...

But it is in the breaking of the bread  
of the Holy Mass, in Communion,  
that we truly know Him.

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer today  
at sunrise and sunset  
accompanied by birds singing  
which outlines the day.

In their song I hear a primordial call -  
from the beginning of time to the end,  
Jesus is present.

(At work I unlock the door in the morning,  
and lock it in the evening, neither of which  
I'd ever done before.)

And on bread alone do I sup today.

Lord, I thank you for your Word,  
which calls me to everlasting life -  
where I shall dance and sing for joy.

(I open my heart to you, and place you first in my life.)

**April 16** (Acts 3:11-26; Ps.8:2,5-9; Lk.24:35-48)

The apostles have been "witnesses of all this."  
What they have seen, they have made known.  
What has been given them, they have accomplished.  
And so we, too, know and believe.

Founded on the faith of the apostles,  
blessed thus through the ages -  
the Lord does not abandon His Church.

As the sun sets tonight,  
the sky is a sheet of pure white  
and the air is fresh  
as rain.

It calls me to contemplation.

Lord, your flesh and bone now sit in heaven;  
in sheer joy and wonder I come to you.

## April 17

(Acts 4:1-12; Ps.118:1-2,4,22-27; Jn.21:1-14)

The cornerstone, rejected by man, is our strength,  
is that upon which we build. Come and eat His body  
and drink His blood, and speak out in His name.  
Gather fish into your nets by the Lord's power.

I find myself forlorn this afternoon, questioning  
my worth and my call - but crying out to the Lord  
He is quick to answer and strengthen me in the moment,  
putting words of fruitful prayer in my mouth.

It is the Lord we need.

O Lord, bless me as I continue to gather words here -  
365 days a year.  
Lead me always to your table  
where I am nourished well.

## April 18

(Acts 4:13-21; Ps.118:1,14-21; Mk.16:9-15)

Those who have heard, those who know, cannot help but "declare the works of the Lord." If you had seen the risen Lord, could you do otherwise? And yet we of such great blessings remain so reluctant to open our mouths and let the Spirit speak.

In church at morning Mass I have of late stepped back from lecturing, finding myself having overlong and with too great a regularity having done so. Today I look about, hoping others will step forward to take my place, to share the work... I believe this is as it should be.

And my own tongue I find silent when faced with teenage (and young adult) illegitimate sex and pregnancy, and abortion - I don't know what to say to these kids, though I know some well.

Only at soup kitchen do I open my mouth, confirming another's preaching before song; and in the prayer I sense the Spirit descending...

O Lord, open my mouth to speak your truth.  
Help me to trust in your word.

## April 19

(Acts 5:12-16; Ps.118:1-4,22-27; Rv.1:9-13,17-19;  
Jn.20:19-31)

What sign, what wonder, what vision would it take for you to fall at the feet of the risen Christ? What is it would prompt you to declare, "My Lord and my God!"?

I have His healing of my life, His taking me from darkness  
- His being always there when I cry out.  
I have the warmth of my forehead and the heat  
in the palms of my hands - His wounds close by.  
I have these words I write, the inspiration which  
is His gift to my soul. I have the Spirit in song.  
(To actually see Him would almost be too overwhelming.)

The Shroud of Turin image they say may have been made  
by the light of His resurrection glory.

But how many there are, anointed by God, who bear nothing  
but briars and thorns - who can believe nothing at all.  
They seek to disprove at every turn, trusting in nothing  
but their minds.

Lord, your Spirit must fall upon this Church and world,  
that it might declare the truth of your divinity.  
Your wonders, beyond our imagining, enact in this life.  
Bring your peace and healing to our doubting hearts.

**April 20** (Acts 4:23-31; Ps.2:1-9,12; Jn.3:1-8)

In the midst of the nations' raging,  
the Holy Spirit shakes the earth -  
the power of the apostles prayer is overwhelming.

And Jesus speaks at night to one of these rulers,  
one of those who sits with those who will crucify God - and  
His soft words fall deeply into his heart.

Baptized let us be in His Spirit,  
every day of our lives.

The power of your Spirit be present throughout the earth,  
dearest Lord and God.

(Conversation with a Baptist continues...)

**April 21** (Acts 4:32-37; Ps.93:1-2,5; Jn.3:7-15)

He who has come down from heaven leads us there by His sacrifice. He it is who bestows power through the Holy Spirit.

Those who are of heaven lay down their lives on this earthly plane. They lay down their hearts and they lay down their goods at the feet of the Lord and His followers.

And none of Him are in need.

I write a few checks and mail them out - my tithing I provide. It is but a small sacrifice, but I pray a fruitful one.

Note: It takes money to raise children.  
What of the sacrifice good father's make?

Lord, as we are of heaven,  
let us give of ourselves in this world.



## **April 22**

(Acts 5:17-26; Ps.34:2-9; Jn.3:16-21)

Someday my prince will come and set me free from  
the prison that is this world of sin - someday I  
will stand in His eternal light.

May I now come into that light and act in truth.

Angel of the Lord, bless and protect me;  
guard my steps that I might walk in His light.

("In heaven, God's light casts no shadow.")

**April 23** (Acts 5:27-33; Ps.34:2,7,9,17-20; Jn.3:31-36)

Let us stand with the One who comes from above.

You are truth, O Lord;  
above every earthly power you reign.  
(Do reign o'er my days.)

He alone is good.

## April 24

(Acts 5:34-42; Ps.27:1,4,13-14; Jn.6:1-15)

Many come for that which is of God;  
it is in the heart of all men  
to dwell in the house of the Lord.

But can we stand under persecution  
and rejoice thereof?  
Can we have such faith as to feed the masses?  
Is there a Church yet to be won?

I take notice of the statue of St. Francis this morning,  
perhaps for the first time -  
we need such faith as of the saints  
to build up this temple.

Holy Spirit, into your hands be commended  
the Church  
and all who dwell under its shelter.  
You alone can feed the people;  
let it be so.

## April 25

(1Pt.5:5-14; Ps.89:2-3,6-7,16-17; Mk.16:15-20)

The Lord Jesus sits above us at God's right hand  
enthroned in heaven  
and continues to work mightily through those  
who proclaim His name.

And we are joyful to bring His word of healing forth.

I am joyful this day, even at the cemetery, joyful  
and blessed by the Lord. From prayers for Christian unity  
at Holy Hour this morning through a Baptist at  
soup kitchen seeking God in religion (I am to meet him  
at Mass tomorrow, where, ironically, infant baptisms  
are to take place for the first time during Sunday Mass) to  
whom I speak after short witnessing and singing...  
the hand of the Lord is upon my life.

O to take Jesus at His word in the end of the gospel  
of Mark! To expel demons, to heal... Our rosary walk,  
during time of Medjugorje message to Marija, is as a  
walk in a cloudless sky.

Your Word of truth go forth, O Lord,  
to bless and heal your one Church.

(The Word shall continue forth;  
the work of the Lord is not done.  
His miracles, beyond imagining, will shine forth.

And I place my hand upon the head of an infant who  
(I later discover) is tomorrow to be baptized.)

## April 26

(Acts 5:27-32,40-41; Ps.30:2,4-6,11-13;

Rv.5:11-14; Jn.21:1-19)

Mourning is turned into dancing, weeping to rejoicing, for the Lord who was dead is risen from the grave and appears to His disciples. And they speak in faith and confidence despite the danger - for all sorrow is turned to joy.

And on this rainy day upon which many remark, there is the joy of Baptism at Mass. And into the darkness of the nursing home, where sadness is and evil spirits cry out, I bring the Eucharist... and many of the elderly have tears of joy.

The light and dark themes permeate, even as my friend's mulatto niece has her daughter baptized... she who is not in wedlock, but did not have an abortion...

And in our church, so much falling apart, we rejoice tonight and call upon the Spirit for renewal - for fulfillment as a temple.

(The sacraments surround me today.)

Lord, take us out of darkness into your glorious light;  
may the darkness purge us  
and the light bring us joy,  
and grant me the wisdom to discern the two.

## **April 27**

(Acts 6:8-15; Ps.119:1,23-24,26-27,29-30;  
Jn.6:22-29)

Meditating on the statutes of the Lord, Stephen is unaffected by those who speak against Him. His heart set on heaven, he will die with the Lord.

Such faith had Stephen in the One God sent.  
O to have such faith and love of God!

The Blessed Mother (at Medjugorje) invites us to open as flowers before God and receive His grace, and I am not afraid.

Lord, feed us with that bread that lasts to life eternal;  
feed us by your Body and your Blood.

Alleluia!

## **April 28**

(Acts 7:51-8:1; Ps.31:3-4,6-8,17,21; Jn.6:30-35)

The Lord provides all we need.  
Even unto death Stephen is protected;  
    even stoned and cursed, he is at peace -  
    for He sees Jesus.

Jesus awaits. So close to us He stands.  
I can feel Him as I write,  
    looking at me in His light.  
If He is with us, there is nothing we need fear.

Holy Spirit, until the end you are with us  
    as advocate and guide.  
Let us call upon you mightily in this time,  
    that all be fed with the bread of life.

## April 29

(Acts 8:1-8; Ps.66:1-7; Jn.6:35-40)

Saul enters house after house, persecuting all Christians - and I myself feel utterly violated today upon reading a supposed primer of the Catholic faith written by a Reformed/Evangelical individual buoyed by the leaven of blatant slander and lies.

So sad, the breeding of division... it does come close to killing my spirit. But the Holy Spirit hears my prayers, and I know my weeping, too, will be turned to dancing.

The Spirit of Truth will triumph; of this we can be certain. For we look upon the Son and believe in Him.

I love you, my enemy, my friend.

Jesus, please set your Church on fire  
with the Spirit of Truth.

Let the earth be filled with knowledge of you.



## **April 30**

(Acts 8:26-40; Ps.66:1,8-9,16-17,20; Jn.6:44-51)

I, too, rejoice this day for being blessed with the refutation of evil and slander. I speak very forthrightly to the person who gave me said book to read - an innocent victim. Perhaps we Catholics can wake from sleep and defend our faith.

Also, I may be falling in love...

I am already in love with Jesus and am blessed to be able to receive today, morning, and at Mass in a friend's house this evening. He draws me closer to Himself.

I believe in you, Lord;

    thank you for enabling me to speak of my belief.  
May your Church be defended by the Spirit of Truth,  
    and may you draw all men unto yourself.

**May 1** (Col.3:14-15,17,23-24; Ps.90:2-4,12-14,16-17;  
Mt.13:54-58)

We must do what we are called to do.  
The greatest and the least shall each be judged  
by how they have fulfilled what was set before them.  
And all will be one in His kingdom.

We are all unworthy servants.  
Our humility must be complete.

I am preparing to accept all the Lord provides -  
husband and father,  
monk or brother,  
artist or teacher,  
all are becoming of equal weight...  
the Lord alone tips the scales.

St. Joseph humbly and silently walks with the Lord -  
.so may we all.

Jesus, my brother, instruct my tired mind,  
that I may labor in peace for you.

**May 2** (Acts 9:31-42; Ps.116:12-17; Jn.6:60-69)

Actually, the Mass I attended today was for First Holy Communion. The reading spoke of the beauty of God's creation; the gospel was from this same Bread of Life passage we've been reading all week.

Truly He is the Bread of Life. Truly we are human, dependent upon the fruits of the earth for our survival; and so Jesus feeds us Himself, through whom and in whom all exists, that this most human of necessities, this most basic and real action might be fulfilled by Him: we eat His body and drink His blood. And so He gives we poor humans life.

He is spiritual, undoubtedly, and the Spirit gives life; but He is also physical and gives our bodies, too - those most perfect of God's works .life.

He is in us and we are in Him, completely. Taste and see how good the Lord is.

(But woe is with me for the crisis of faith in the Church; the children understand more than the parents, who are as sheep without a shepherd - in church as in a foreign land.)

Feed us, dear Lord.  
Yes, let your sheep be fed.  
Return us to your fold.

## **May 3**

(Acts 13:14,43-52; Ps.100:1-3,5; Rv.7:9,14-17;  
Jn.10:27-30)

Jesus is the true Shepherd,  
leading His flock to eternal life.

I thank the Lord for Paul and Barnabas, for Peter and John, for all His bishops and priests who stand in His place and speak in His name - leading the sheep to eternal life. By them we are led on right paths... The Father and Jesus are one, and those whom He sends are one with Him.

The false prophets of today predict the end of this world, the demise of the earth. Failing to understand even human things, they attempt to put their fingers upon heavenly matters, which belong to God alone. The beginning and end are not known to us; they are not in our hands.

Heaven opens only for those who trust in Him.

Lord, I thank you for your apostles  
and for your sacraments;  
they are your hands in this world.  
Let us leave all things in your Hand.

**May 4** (Acts 11:1-18; Ps.41:3,42:2-3,43:3-4; Jn.10:1-10)

Yes, even the Gentiles hear the voice of the Good Shepherd when He calls to them. He who is without lie, without deceit, is heard clearly by the discerning ear.

Peter opens the gate to the unclean animals; they enter and are made pure by God. Instruments must we all be, branches of the vine, to the entering in of those who would hear the voice of God.

Jesus, speak to us all; direct us in your truth.  
Leave us not alone in this dark, cold world.  
(Thank you for the comfort of your Church, O Lord,  
and all the blessings you alone have wrought in it.)

(My ear needs better attunement  
to His patience and peace.)

**May 5** (Acts 11:19-26; Ps.87:1-7,117:1; Jn.10:22-30)

All men are children of Jerusalem, the heavenly Jerusalem from which the Spirit descends. Those of Zion hear the voice of Jesus calling.

Gather round the Lord not in question and doubt, but in praise and rejoicing. Be good men, "filled with the Holy Spirit and faith." Can you not hear His voice?

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want;  
in Him I shall be one with the Father  
and so with all Christians.

Lord, lead all into your heavenly fold.

**May 6** (Acts 12:24-13:5; Ps.67:2-6,8; Jn.12:44-50)

The words He speaks are Spirit and life,  
and if you heed not His call you cannot but die.

May the Spirit go forth to all nations, O Lord;  
let all peoples hear your Word, your truth.

(We argue amongst ourselves, and why?  
There is but one God.

It shall be known.  
(The devil shall flee.))

## **May 7**

(Acts 13:13-25; Ps.89:2-3,21-22,25-27; Jn.13:16-20)

Jesus has come in the line of David to fulfill the old covenant in He himself who is the new covenant. And He sends forth those He chooses to fulfill His own Word to the nations. And we shall be one in His kingdom and see that HE IS.

In humility we must go forth.

Jesus, make us your own.

(Amazing day - church window broken and thieves break in but to steal some meat from soup kitchen fridge below; a bird is at door inside auditorium - I set him free; I take a detour to avoid traffic and end up miles off course at Newark Airport; and I spend five hours with my Baptist friend with whom I am falling in love - I feel much like Romeo to Juliet...

God, let your Spirit descend upon us.

Jesus, be with us.

(And Mother watch over.))



**May 8** (Acts 13:26-33; Ps.2:6-8; Jn.14:1-6)

He is the One - "the way, and the truth, and the life"  
for all peoples.

A most unusual occurrence this morning - never happened to me before, nor to anyone I know. I receive the Eucharist from the priest. As I reach into my hand to lift it to my mouth, I notice there are two hosts together. I am the last to receive, so priest is already returning... I figure he has already offered it, and I know as much or as little as we eat, it is all one Jesus - so I consume both hosts.

Could I have been receiving for my Baptist friend? Is the Lord preparing a place for her at this altar table? (And I receive notice today that a book I ordered for my friend - Scott and Kimberly Hahn's *Rome Sweet Home* (Spanish version), of their conversion to Catholicism - is waiting at the post office for me.)

Lord, thank you for your assurance  
of your love and care for me.  
May we all trust in your providence  
and follow your way.

**May 9** (Acts 13:44-52; Ps.98:1-4; Jn.14:7-14)

Let the will of the Lord be done.  
All in His name let works be accomplished:  
    to proclaim salvation to the nations,  
    to end abortion,  
    to find His way...  
all be done in the Father through Christ.

And if it be the will of the Lord alone that is done -  
we shall but rejoice.

I believe, dear Lord, and I call upon your Name:  
only thy will be done.

## **May 10**

(Acts 14:21-27; Ps.145:1,8-13; Rv.21:1-5; Jn.13:31-35)

The Church is built up here on earth in love for one another and in faith in Him who sends His disciples. Yet His kingdom here is not without trials, is not without tears and mourning - for here it is not perfected.

We long for the day of the "new heavens and a new earth."  
But for now the rain continues. (We have seen the sun very little in the past two weeks.)

Lord, how shall we know your holy love?  
Enfold us in your sacrifice  
and bring us to eternal life.

**May 11** (Acts 14:5-18; Ps.115:1-4,15-16; Jn.14:21-26)

Oh that all men might hear His words, that they might  
penetrate their hearts, their minds - that they might  
be children loved by the Father.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty -  
there is none beside thee.  
May the Spirit fall upon us all  
and make us your own.

**May 12** (Acts 14:19-28; Ps.145:10-13,21; Jn.14:27-31)

The kingdom is coming.  
It mayn't be a smooth road we must travel,  
but the Lord's peace shall soon replace  
the war the world makes.

It may seem impossible sometimes.  
We hear of sickness, we hear of death and torture.  
(Tonight a friend's mother lays in the hospital...)  
Man's inhumanity seems to know no bounds at times.  
But it shall. The stoning felt now by all His disciples  
shall soon pass, and they shall rise again to new life  
in the Father's presence.

His peace be with you, my sisters and brothers.

Lord, may we rejoice that you are with the Father,  
and so raise us up to Him.  
May we, too, do as the Father commands,  
that all might be accomplished in His Name.

**May 13** (Acts 15:1-6; Ps.122:1-5; Jn.15:1-8)

From the Father to the Son to His disciples to their appointed successors and the Fathers of the Church, Tradition comes down to us as branches of the one true vine. There is no break in the work of the Spirit upon Jesus' disciples, in the holy city of Jerusalem - in His Church.

As the first council is convened in Jerusalem with the apostles and elders gathering in the Spirit to consider the first difficult matter facing the Church, we see the beginnings of sacred Tradition.

God does not work randomly in empty space - He is a God of right order, working through men.

Every building must have a strong foundation;  
ours is the apostles and their teaching,  
and the cornerstone is Christ.

Clear the window of truth from the grime grown upon it.  
Dear Lord, let us see in the light of day  
our brotherhood in you.

(Today, finally, after endless days of darkness and rain,  
the sun does show itself again.)

**May 14** (Acts 1:15-17,20-26; Ps.113:1-8; Jn.15:9-17)

The Lord chooses whom He will to go forth in His love.  
I would bow down and kiss His feet, for He raises up  
the lowly.

Readings for the day remarkably similar to readings  
for this the feast of St. Matthias. (Gospels the same,  
Peter leading assemblies in both readings...)

I read today an account by Lucia of her visions at  
Fatima; especially touched by how the angel leading them  
to pray with their heads to the ground. (The leaders of  
the people must be so humble. I must find such humility.)

In love I continue to fall... let it be true.  
Though I am old and balding, I act as a youth.

Lord, may our joy be complete in you;  
let that you call us to be fulfilled this day.

## May 15

(Acts 15:22-31; Ps.57:8-12; Jn.15:12-17)

"Love one another."

I pray to the Lord intently and humbly that my life will bear fruit in His name. The priest seems to look directly at me as he prays for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. And before the statue of St. Francis (which shows the stigmata upon his hands) I pray that it might be so that should I marry, it will in no way lessen my devotion to Jesus, but increase it - that even a married man could bear His stigmata...

And as I finish a poem to my love today, a friend finds and copies the balcony scene of *Romeo and Juliet* for me. Then tonight what do I find as I turn on the TV - the very beginning of the film version of *Romeo and Juliet* on public television.

I finish that poem by laying down my love for my friend. (Here is no illicit sexual union; here may the angels shine.)

I love you, Jesus, above all,  
for you are gracious  
and give good gifts to all your children.  
Yes, let my life bear fruit in your name.



**May 16** (Acts 16:1-10; Ps.100:1-3,5; Jn.15:18-21)

We know not where we shall go, where the Lord shall lead,  
but we must be obedient to every prompting of the Spirit  
alone and prepare ourselves for the suffering which lies  
ahead. (There will be rejoicing in His kingdom.)

Lord, take all pride which but swells my head  
and blinds me to the simple light around me.  
Lead me forth into battle for thee;  
let thy will be done.

(If we but knew what the Lord could make of us...

I have, of course, been watching *Hamlet* tonight -  
he who was not of this world eventually found his time.)

## **May 17**

(Acts 15:1-2,22-29; Ps.67:2-6,8; Rv.21:10-14,22-23;  
Jn.14 :23-29)

The foundation of the kingdom of heaven both here on earth and in the New Jerusalem is the apostles. Here they decide what is right and what is not; in the kingdom of God they are that upon which the walls rest. Jesus has made it so. The Spirit inspires them for their task. This is the Father's will. (We cannot put asunder what God has made.)

Tonight at prayer meeting I am distinctly inspired by the Spirit. I see that there will be a renaissance of the Catholic Church. The sleep, the lethargy upon it, brought about by past sins and the accusations that assail it, will be swallowed up in the Jubilee. The Holy Spirit will breathe freely; the truth will be spoken openly - and all those so called will enter into the gates of the New Jerusalem.

Lord, it cannot but be that your Word will out.  
Make it not long now, Lord.

**May 18** (Acts 16:11-15; Ps.149:1-6,9; Jn.15:26-16:4)

We must bear witness, come what may.  
The Holy Spirit will convert the hearts  
of those open to God;  
we must but speak as prompted.

O Lord, I am not afraid,  
though there may be sorrow.  
Teach me your way of love.

**May 19** (Acts 16:22-34; Ps.138:1-3,7-8; Jn.16:5-11)

As we hear Jesus speak again today of the coming of the Paraclete, we are reminded that we approach Ascension Thursday and so the beginning of the novena of prayer that leads to Pentecost.

The power of the Spirit is tremendously evident in today's first reading as Paul and Silas, though chained in prison, sing hymns to God - bringing a strong earthquake to free these prisoners. But perhaps the Spirit is best in evidence in the conversion of the jailer's entire household...

I would I were so joyful and faithful in my waiting (for hours) for my friend. Though I do find patience, I fall rather short of such complete trust in God.

The Lord is with us in all situations, and is ever ready to break in upon our lives with His grace.

I love you, Lord.  
May we wait patiently in prayer for the coming  
of the Paraclete.  
May we have faith that He is with us.

(And as my close friend and his family wait patiently at the bedside of their mother who has been on the verge of death these several days, it is a blessing to see their love and devotion and faith and hope.

And as I write this, the wind begins to kick up as the temperature drops after a warm and calm, beautiful day...)

## **May 20**

(Acts 17:15,22-18:1; Ps.148:1-2,11-14,Is.6:3;  
Jn.16:12-15)

Listened to beautiful preaching of Scott Hahn, calling Catholics to be Bible Christians (and vice-versa). The Spirit of truth was very present and his thorough knowledge of Scripture quite evident. (Moved to tears on more than one occasion.) We can only pray that his prayer and work for renewal and reunification will come to be.

Also, experienced today a most unusual phenomenon (does it reveal the power of God and His chastisement?) - an ice storm on a summery day. It must have been pushing 80 when a storm blew in and ice the size of marbles (and some much larger) began to pelt the earth. Reminded me of my vision of a hard rain and flooding, followed by sunshine...

O Lord, you are the source of all wisdom and knowledge.  
Into your hands we place our minds;  
may they be guided always by the Spirit of truth.

**May 21** (Acts 1:1-11; Ps.47:2-3,6-9; Eph.1:17-23; Lk.24:46-53)

Ascension Thursday - and so Jesus reigns on high,  
and so we wait now for the Spirit...

How powerfully filled with the Spirit I felt today at  
Mass after Confession of my sins. And so I pray these  
nine days for the Spirit of Truth to fall upon me, and  
upon His whole Church.

Hallelujah! In heavenly places let us rest.

The Lord looks down from His mighty throne;  
the Lamb once slain remains with us forever.

Dear Lord, inspire me rightly in my walk with you  
and with my brothers and sisters.  
Let me enter into your glory and do your will.

**May 22** (Acts 18:9-18; Ps.47:2-8; Jn.16:20-23)

What beautifully loving and reassuring words Jesus speaks to us today. Yes, the world does bring us trouble, but yes, too, He has overcome the world. (Our hope is in Him.)

Again with my friend and his mother who is in her last hours...  
Again fasting on bread and water...  
Again troubled by murderous news of the world...  
Again praying for the kingdom.

Hold onto His words, my brothers and sisters.

Come, Holy Spirit, guide us through this world  
with a lively hope in the Lord of all.  
Thank you, Jesus, for your words.

(Note: Baptist friend goes away for a week today...

Continuing above - again at cemetery, with flowers...  
the day is remarkably clear.)

**May 23** (Acts 18:23-28; Ps.47:2-3,8-10; Jn.16:23-28)

In His Name all our prayers are answered;  
in His Name all our teaching is true...  
We must remain in Him in all we say and do.

The Lord is ever our refuge and our strength.  
Remember Him. Call upon Him. Know Him and love Him.

I pray the Lord take all I am unto Himself.

In strength may we speak in your Name, O Lord.  
Let us know that you hear our prayer.



## **May 24**

(Acts 7:55-60; Ps.97:1-2,6-7,9; Rv.22:12-14,16-17,20;  
Jn.17:20-26)

The Lord sits enthroned in heaven now;  
elevate your mind to where He is.

Jesus is in heaven with Mary, the angels, and the saints -  
when we think of them, when we pray with them,  
we set our mind on heavenly things.

Let us look to heaven, that we may be one,  
that we may see the Son of Man.

(It is difficult to imagine heaven, the eternal kingdom,  
which is even now -  
but it is reality.)

Come, Lord Jesus, that we might know you  
and be one as you pray.

## May 25

(Acts 19:1-8; Ps.68:2-7,33; Jn.16:29-33)

I walk a mile (and an extra mile) to receive Our Lady of Medjugorie's message today. She encourages us to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit, to open our hearts and give our lives to living His truth - such is my prayer during this novena.

And with the power of the Holy Spirit we shall overcome all fear and worldly distraction and refute all false prophecy.

How shocking and heart-rending to read about Mormonism and other cults today. How sad to think that those who are born and brain-washed into this lie and fantasy may never come to know Jesus... It speaks reams of the desperate state of our society, how like sheep without a shepherd the people are, and so how easily they are led astray. (How we need the Spirit of Truth!)

Come, Holy Spirit,  
save the souls of those so lost  
and lead us all home to the Father.

(On this Memorial Day my close friend's mother dies...  
we shall all overcome this world in Christ,  
who waits at the right hand of God.)

**May 26** (Acts 20:17-27; Ps.68:10-11,20-21; Jn.17:1-11)

In life He blesses our work abundantly;  
in death He leads us home.

Two powerful speeches today:

Paul to his children, his priests, at Ephesus,  
laying down his life to the end;  
and Jesus praying to the Father -  
now we realize He came from the Father,  
when we hear Him speak so intimately  
and so powerfully to the Creator.

(The apostles must have been astounded.)

Through this world we are led to heaven,  
compelled by the Spirit.

Took a winding road to pray at an abortion clinic but did  
not find the place - should have been in Brooklyn instead  
of Manhattan - but next time...

Lord, may we be so finished at the end of our days,  
so fulfilled in our mission,  
so present to you.

## **May 27**

(Acts 20:28-38; Ps.68:29-30,33-36; Jn.17:11-19)

Paul's parting words to the priests he leaves behind in Ephesus to carry on the work he has begun, invested with the power of God. And Jesus prays for His own apostles, calling the Father's protection upon them as He, too, prepares to depart.

I pray at the wake of my friend's mother that blessings will be upon the family she leaves behind. And I dispute the wild accusations another friend's husband makes against the Catholic Church and orthodox theology.

May we be consecrated in truth, dear Lord,  
blessed in your blood.  
Spirit of truth, remain with the Church  
until the end of time.

**May 28** (Acts 22:30,23:6-11; Ps.16:1-2,5,7-11; Jn.17:20-26)

How we need the Lord.  
We would die without Him.  
He is our courage, He is our strength -  
He is our love.

Today I would die as my Baptist friend tells me she doesn't know when she will see me again. (It is my own fault - we must put nothing before the Lord.)

Holy Spirit, lead me along right paths.  
Leave me not alone.  
I need your eternal love.

**May 29** (Acts 25:13-21; Ps.103:1-2,11-12,19-20; Jn.21:15-19)

By our lives and by our death we must glorify God.  
Paul sees that the name of Jesus is known in the  
courts of this world, and Peter will give His life  
for the Lord... So mustn't we all?

Liturgy of funeral for friend's mom today, too.  
Death only appears to be (Wisdom); there will be  
no more tears in the New Jerusalem (Revelation);  
and Lazarus ever lives...

I am frightened to die;  
I *am* afraid I may not live rightly...

Be close, O death, that I might live aright.

I stretch out my hands to you, O Lord;  
please take them.

(I do call Franciscan Friars of the Renewal tonight...

Did I mention yesterday that my friend's mom  
appeared to me to be breathing in her casket?)

**May 30** (Acts 28:16-20,30-31; Ps.11:4-5,7; Jn.21:20-25)

There is so much Jesus has done,  
so much to preach and teach about -  
one could spend one's whole life upon it  
and yet there would be more...

He is infinite, as is His love.  
We must follow Him where He is.

God first, my friend;  
He it is we must follow.

Dear Lord, bless us as we follow you -  
may we never look back.

**May 31** (Acts 2:1-11; Ps.104:1,24,29-31,34; 1Cor.12:3-7,12-13;  
Jn.20:19-23)

Pentecost Sunday.

Priest moves toward prophecy at the end of a strong sermon, saying even nuclear power is in the hands of the Holy Spirit and He will not allow the world to be destroyed in such a way...

I move toward prophecy in writing final section of *The Will to Love* all (about forty pages) at once today, though bothered by the scourge of a terrible rash around my eye, nose, ear, etc.

Today the fan is put in the window,  
and then the air conditioner tonight...

O Holy Spirit, blow where thou will,  
and draw all men unto thyself  
in peace.



**June 1** (2Pt.1:2-7; Ps.91:1-2,14-16; Mk.12:1-12)

The Lord takes from corruption to love all who take refuge in Him, all those He blesses... but the wicked servants will be cast out of the vineyard.

On this the feast of St. Justin and with the first reading being from Peter, I think of the Church and its apostolic foundation, which is its strength. Reading another book stating why Protestants differ from Catholics (though this one presumes more objectivity), again I am left to think of the division of the Church - it seems Protestants cannot reconcile Jesus with the authority of the Church. They see them as contradictory rather than complementary. Essentially, they cannot understand how all these "Catholic" things find their authority in Christ. And so what has been established is questioned and lost...

I go to the doctor today, knowing that all healing comes only from Christ.

Jesus, bless your Church.  
Spirit, bring it unity and understanding;  
bring together Head and Body.

**June 2** (2Pt.3:12-15,17-18; Ps.90:1-4,10,14,16; Mk.12:13-17)

He does indeed "teach God's way of life sincerely."  
As does Peter.

In every age the Lord is our refuge.  
Through all time He is near  
and His teaching is with us.  
So we "give to God what is God's."

God's is the Church, and as we await "new heavens  
and a new earth," we know that the apostles and their  
successors are with us to guide us. I would we all  
could hear their wise words, blessed by the Spirit  
of God in the Name of Jesus Christ.

No wonder the Pharisees and Herodians were amazed  
at Jesus: could better, clearer, more beautiful  
answer be made? Would we all had such wisdom.

Make our years fruitful, O Lord,  
that they might lead unto heaven.  
O Lord, take my soul.

(Short discussion with another Baptist  
re the authority Christ gave to Peter and the Church.)

**June 3** (2Tm.1:1-3,6-12; Ps.123:1-2; Mk.12:18-27)

My eyes are on the Lord (though I am at times distracted)  
and I believe He is able to guard my life and bring me  
unto life everlasting where He is.

Jesus, give me the power you would have me have  
and may I exercise it in all truth and love  
and strength.

Spirit of Truth, wisdom and guide,  
make clear the path to immortality.

**June 4** (2Tm.2:8-15; Ps.25:4-5,8-10,14; Mk.12:28-34)

The Lord teaches us the straight path;  
His commandment *is* to love.  
We must have faith in Him  
and walk with Him always.

Praying at an abortion clinic for the first time today,  
praying this sin so void of love shall be overcome.  
Trying not to dispute about mere words with my Baptist  
friend, and trying to love her.

Instruct us, Lord, in your right ways.  
Lead all souls unto the glory of your resurrection.  
(Keep me humble, yes, and obedient.)

**June 5**

(2Tm.3:10-17; Ps.119:157,160-161,165-166,168;  
Mk.12:35-37)

Jesus uses Scripture to teach that He is everlasting.  
By this word we come to know that Jesus is of eternity.  
(And in Him, so are we.)

I must say, resting in my friend's arms,  
I could touch eternity.  
There the waters of salvation flow.

O Lord, lead us into your arms,  
where all shall find rest  
and all shall find life.

I love you.

**June 6** (2Tm.4:1-8; Ps.71:8-9,14-17,22; Mk.12:38-44)

We must teach truly, yes; and to teach truly we must give of ourselves - all of ourselves. Paul acts as the widow, pouring his very self out as an offering, and so he is confirmed as a true Christian teacher, meriting the crown of His Savior.

Today I have what was perhaps my first sincere, humble conversation with my friend about our apparent differences, using the Bible as guide. And today I give from my surplus wealth a little more money to charity... and serve and pray at the soup kitchen.

Let it be your Word alone, Lord,  
that enters our ears.  
Teach us to give and to serve for your sake.

**June 7** (Prv.8:22-31; Ps.8:2,4-9; Rm.5:1-5; Jn.16:12-15)

By Wisdom we were made; by Jesus we were saved;  
by the Holy Spirit we will be led into all truth.

Formed by the hands of God, we are the paragon of  
animals, and so Jesus gave His life to redeem us;  
and now we are being formed into the New Jerusalem,  
into the very glory of God.

On this Trinity Sunday we are thankful to God for His  
love, for the family we are with He who is the Divine  
Family. There is but one love and we are one with Him  
in that love, and one with one another.

Dear Sweet Lord of All - Father, Son, and Spirit Blest -  
unite us in thanksgiving for your love.  
Thank you for this sacred Lord's Day.

**June 8** (1Kgs.17:1-6; Ps.121:1-8; Mt.5:1-12)

O to be so blessed,  
to have the ravens feed us  
morning and evening  
by the hand of God,  
to drink from the stream by the wayside...

O to be so blessed  
with purity and persecutions  
unto death,  
that we may be raised to life  
with Him  
who is holy,  
with Him who blesses us.

Hallelujah, Jesus!  
Keep us on the right path to thee;  
never let us stray,  
but in love to dwell forever.

(He watches over all your ways.)



**June 9** (1Kgs.17:7-16; Ps.4:2-5,7-8; Mt.5:13-16)

When we think the end is near,  
our lives may just be beginning:  
we must put all things in the Lord's hands.

O Lord, help me to trust in you,  
that I might always remain salt of the earth  
and light for this world.

Send your messengers to help sustain me -  
may Mary and the angels and the saints  
please pray for me.

(It seems the relationship with my Baptist friend  
is about to end...  
but I trust in the Lord  
and do not relent in my love -  
and she comes to me all the more.)

Also, anniversary of finding my cat, Morning, today.)

**June 10** (1Kgs.18:20-39; Ps.16:1-2,4-5,8,11; Mt.5:17-19)

I must be the "least in the kingdom of God", for I cannot keep "the least of these commandments"...

But I know the Lord God shall prove whether my sacrifice, the offering of my life in all things, is true. And I know I shall never go over to Baal.

Lord, that heaven and earth would pass away  
and all that is not good in me  
would disappear -  
may the work I offer be acceptable on that day.

(So often we know not what we do, brothers and sisters. May the Lord help us in our plight and grant us wisdom in all things.)

**June 11** (Acts 11:21-26,13:1-3; Ps.98:1-6; Mt.10:7-13)

St. Barnabas.

The apostles go forth,  
they go forth to every nation.  
We all must step forward  
and speak of the name of the Lord.

Delightful, euphoric bit of conversation today with Baptist friend, as I put forth the immortality of the soul and so the saints' clear presence in heaven even now. (Mentioned Jesus' words to Mary at Lazarus' tomb and Stephen's revelation at his death.)

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.  
He has come! The day has come; life is here.  
Hallelujah!

I love you, Jesus.  
May the gifts you give us be shared with all.

**June 12** (1Kgs.19:9,11-16; Ps.27:7-9,13-14; Mt.5:27-32)

It is the still, small voice which searches hearts and tries men's souls. It asks, "Why are you here?" as we cringe in the corner of our room. Yes, the command of the Lord sinks deeply into our spirits, exposing all that is not right and calling us to settle our affairs.

I do not feel well on this rainy, cold day, and so do not visit a friary house as scheduled... nor do I hold to my bread fast. There are changes upon my life - may they all be in God's hands. (May I be obedient to His voice.)

Lord, how shall I measure up to your word?  
Let all be done in your will.

**June 13** (1Kgs.19:2,9-21; Ps.16:1-2,5,7-10; Mt.5:33-37)

This being the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, I find myself ruing more so having missed my visit to the Franciscan Friars this weekend. Would such a cloak as they do wear be cast upon my back?

But I am in love and cannot entertain two ideas at once - it would not be honest. This love about which I become feverish must certainly be checked and balanced properly, but is not ready to be abandoned.

Let me not undergo corruption, Dear Lord,  
but let me find my true call in you.  
(Would I not follow you so completely?)

**June 14** (Gn.14:18-20; Ps.110:1-4; 1Cor.11:23-26; Lk.9:11-17)

Jesus, the high priest, feeds the people with His own Body and Blood. The twelve baskets carried by the apostles come down to us this day.

My only joy comes from receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord today. Otherwise, the day is dark and I continue unwell and weak. At prayer meeting this night we pray over one another for healing...

Into your hands, Lord, let me place my body and mind,  
heart and soul -  
heal me and feed me, dear God.

**June 15** (1Kgs.21:1-16; Ps.5:2-3,5-7; Mt.5:38-42)

Jezebel says, "If a man won't give you something, take it from him." Jesus says, "If a man would take something from you, give it and more." How diametrically opposed are these ways.

May I not be bloodthirsty for that which I cannot have; may I not desire what is opposed to God's will. Rather, let me give and not count the cost.

Lord, I am not worthy to follow you,  
nor to experience the joy of your sacrifice.  
Convert my heart to love of your words.  
May I be obedient to your commands.

## **June 16**

(1Kgs.21:17-29; Ps.51:3-6,11,16; Mt.5:43-48)

Ahab's sin was great, indeed. So is our own, no? Have we not all participated in the crucifixion of Christ? If Ahab's repentance could bring a measure of forgiveness from the Lord, we must not doubt the potential conversion of anyone - not an abortionist, not an oppressive dictator, not those who cause us pain... lest we call into question our own reception of grace.

There is certainly nothing greater than to love as God loves, than to be perfect as He. Can you step into the shoes of Jesus? Can you drink from His cup? There is inestimable glory which awaits those who attain to such self-sacrifice.

Teach me, Jesus, your ways.  
I know they are glorious to behold;  
give me the strength to see them through.



**June 17** (2Kgs.2:1,6-14; Ps.31:20-21,24-25; Mt.6:1-6,16-18)

Secretly, some would say mysteriously, Elijah is taken up to heaven. But that which the eye does not see is very clear to God - clear as day and bright as fire. In the secret of your heart you must live in heaven, knowing the Father's presence is with you.

Chariots of fire, come convey us to the heavens,  
to the Father's glory  
where the angels sing.

Lord, may our deeds serve to bring us there  
in all humility.

(An awesome thunderstorm this evening -  
what a mighty God we serve!)

**June 18** (Sir.48:1-14; Ps.97:1-7; Mt.6:7-15)

Even after death the great saints perform wonders  
from their seats in the heavenly kingdom,  
"by the will of the Lord."

O Lord, let your will be done.  
You are great and highly to be praised.  
Great are the works you have wrought  
in your heavenly saints.

My life I give to you this day;  
thank you for my birth.  
(In my mother's womb I was formed by you,  
I know not how.)

(Show on TV tonight about the Catholic Church's process  
of canonizing saints... they must perform miracles from  
heaven after death.)

## **June 19**

(Ez.34:11-16; Ps.23:1-6; Rm.5:5-11; Lk.15:3-7)

Sacred Heart.

His blood reconciles the scattered sheep with the Father,  
drawing all into the holy fold.

The Good Shepherd is the Lamb of God, laying down His  
life for the sheep - by the blood of the Lamb we are  
saved from the darkness which envelops the world and  
would entangle our souls in sin. It is His joy to die  
that you might live.

O Lord, gather me into your arms and give me rest;  
my fervent prayer is the joyous unity  
of all your scattered sheep.

In your hands I place my prayer...  
your blood pour upon your people;  
your Spirit raise us up  
onto your shoulders.

**June 20** (Is.7:10-14; Ps.89:4-5,29-34; Lk.2:41-52)

Special readings for Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Jesus "progressed steadily" in the home of Mary and Joseph. Though ever in His Father's house, He made Himself obedient unto them.

There is great sorrow in all our hearts when we find ourselves separated from Jesus, when we can't seem to find Him - when we do not search in His Father's house. (There is Jesus always.)

All must be subject to such sorrow as was the Blessed Mother. We must all search for Him. On this the anniversary of my sister's fall, I recall my own sorrow, but most of all I find joy at having found the Lord, even through such sorrow.

Lord, may we share in your Mother's ponderings,  
considering all things  
as they are ordered by you.  
And may we find you, too.

## June 21

(Zec.12:10-11; Ps.63:2-6,8-9; Gal.3:26-29; Lk.9:18-24)

O that I might lose my life even now for His sake,  
that when I look upon Him  
I shall not be thrust through,  
having already been thrust through in Him.

Come to Him, call upon Him,  
and you shall not grieve  
on that day,  
but shall be one with Him even now.

(Visited my Reformed Baptist friend's church today -  
almost exclusively preaching.  
So much has been stripped away...  
Why, O Lord? Why?)

May all be for the glory of God.)

O Lord, I look upon you  
and I long for you.  
You break my heart of stone  
as I look upon your sacrifice.

(I mean no offense,  
but though there was inspired preaching,  
I got more out of our 45 minute Mass  
than the three hours of service...

It is at Mass I am fed;  
and I do learn that time is not so important.)

## **June 22**

(2Kgs.2.7:5-8,13-15,18; Ps.60:3-5,7,12-13; Mt.7:1-5)

Is it perhaps some plank in my own eye which causes me  
to totter, to be ravaged inside by the pain of confusion?  
Is it perhaps my jealousy that causes me to be  
suspicious, to find fault, to dream of dishonesty?

What is this plank and how shall it be removed?

Dear Lord, I call upon your name in my exile  
from your grace -  
let me not enter into judgment  
but free me in your blessed truth  
and love.

**June 23**

(2Kgs.19:9-11,14-21,31-36; Ps.48:2-4,9-11;  
Mt.7:6,12-14)

"Enter through the narrow gate."  
(The Lord will preserve your life.)

May my sister be with the Lord.

(Tears and troubles turn  
to conversation about the Word  
with Baptist friend and mother.)

Preserve the life of your Church, Lord.  
Make it one -  
help us walk the difficult road  
to you.

**June 24** (Is.49:1-6; Ps.139:1-3,13-15; Acts 13:22-26;  
Lk.1:57-66,80)

Birth of John the Baptist.  
(And anniversary of initial vision at Medjugorje.)

From the womb John was called,  
and, perhaps, so are we all.

But what is that call you hold for me, O Lord?  
May I not uselessly spend my strength.

(I begin proposed three-day fast  
to heal my ailments  
and seek the Lord's will for my life.)



## **June 25**

(2Kgs.24:8-17; Ps.79:1-5,8-9; Mt.7:21-29)

"If you come seeking praise,  
You will never find it.  
If you do to gain reward,  
You will never receive it.

You must give and love  
Without wanting return,  
And in giving and loving,  
You will be set free."

Those who serve the Lord know it is its own reward.  
They cannot be shaken because all they have and all  
they are is of the Lord, and He remains.

Lord, keep us from captivity.  
May we stay upon your land with the poor.  
Let us never be separated from you.

## **June 26**

(2Kgs.25:1-12; Ps.137:1-6; Mt.8:1-4)

If the Lord willed it, He could cure me of my  
inconstancy. I would then be single-hearted.  
(And so be released from exile.)

Are the days of our exile near an end?  
It was half a millennium or so from the exile to Christ's  
coming - is this passing half-millennium boding the end  
of the current exile of faith?

Stretch out your hand, dear Lord.  
Holy Spirit, come and renew the face of the earth.

## **June 27**

(Lam.2:2,10-14,18-19; Ps.74:1-7,19-21; Mt.8:5-17)

How much the sacking of Jerusalem is like unto the crucifixion of our Lord. "With chisel and hammer they hack at the paneling of the sanctuary."

Why is there such suffering? Why such destruction? They shall look upon Him whom they have pierced, and their hearts will melt.

Jesus already possesses such compassion - and so with a word He heals.

Lord, that I might have such faith,  
that I might see clearly the radiance of the Father  
you are.  
(And that I might be able to suffer so compassionately.)

Hear my prayer.

## June 28

(1Kgs.19:16,19-21; Ps.16:1-2,5,7-11; Gal.5:1,13-18;  
Lk.9:51-62)

Hand to the plow - love, and trust in God.

I discern in the readings a definite call to give self entirely to the Lord; we must not turn to sin or any distraction.

It may be foolish to say and may be fruitless in the end, but I believe the Lord is calling me to simply love my Baptist friend and trust in Him. (And, I think, if this should not be, I will turn to the Franciscans...)

Let me walk with face set like flint, dear Lord,  
even unto death.

To the cross let me follow you,  
that I might find the life you leave us.

(Priest keys on generosity in homily.  
This is something I miss, since I have such  
a tendency to count the cost... Give Freely!)

## **June 29**

(Acts 12:1-11; Ps.34:2-9; 2Tm.4:6-8,17-18;  
Mt.16:13-19)

The Lord's Church is a rock of refuge for all His flock.  
The angels watch over and guide Peter and Paul, and so  
they bless us all.

Theme of unity is prayer this morning and subject of  
conversation with two brothers, one another Baptist.

Lord, make us one;

Holy Spirit, come.

(And please watch over my baby and her travels.)

## June 30

(Amos 3:1-8,4:11-12; Ps.5:4-9; Mt.8:23-27)

The lion roars, and men tremble.  
The prophet cries out - but do we listen?  
The Lord speaks, and even the wind and sea obey.  
(Jesus speaks with true authority.)

Waking this morning, a storm was roaring and rain was pouring. I wondered how I'd get to church dry - having no umbrella or rain gear. But before the time to leave, the rain abated. (And did again later in the day.)

May we be spared from the storm to come.

O Lord, our sin would bring our destruction.  
By your word, calm the storm.

**July 1** (Amos 5:14-15,21-24; Ps.50:7-13,16-17,23; Mt.8:28-34)

Seeking good today - seeking truth.

For the first time really, my Baptist friend and I pray together for our situation, calling upon the Spirit of Truth.

And at Mass this morning, I pray that as Jesus cast out the evil spirits in Gadarene, so He will remove all evil from me, that I might walk in freedom. (And I know the Lord's power to do this.)

Stay, dear Jesus, and heal us entirely.  
Soothe us by your truth.

**July 2** (Amos 7:10-17; Ps.19:8-11; Mt.9:1-8)

The Word of Truth issues forth from the mouth of God,  
and we must speak it without obstruction, for it resounds  
until the end of time.

The Lord will call us wherever we are, whatever we do.  
He will come to us to bring us to health. We must  
listen.

Prayers radiate the light of truth today:  
His word is truth and light.

Obedient to your voice make us, Lord,  
that new life may be ours.

(We are challenged to live His word.)



**July 3** (Eph.2:19-22; Ps.117:1-2; Jn.20:24-29)

Feast of St. Thomas. (Appropriate, as the Indian priest who has been with us for the past year leaves to return to his country for a sabbatical.)

O to be one with the members of the household,  
to find our place with the saints in heaven,  
to know we are in company with them in Christ Jesus...  
Our place in the kingdom rests upon our faith.

My Lord and my God, join us unto thee  
in the heavenly kingdom.  
Thank you for the gracious gift  
of your sacrifice.

(I believe, and so enter into His presence.)

**July 4** (Phil.4:6-9; Ps.85:9,11-14; Jn.14:23-29)

Readings of Peace on this Independence Day.

May the Lord's peace be with us, His true and lasting peace... But I can but think of the sin of abortion rampant in this land even as the priest attempts to cheer America. Prayers for the unborn must yet go out.

I seek peace in prayer this morning, trust in God and adherence to His way. He gives me solace as I address what anxiety I have and realize I myself can do nothing about changing what will be - I put it in His hands.

Some fireworks for the children this evening...

Bring us your lasting peace, Lord.

## **July 5**

(Is.66:10-14; Ps.66:1-7,16,20; Gal.6:14-18;  
Lk.10:1-12,17-20)

We can rejoice in Jerusalem and our bodies will flourish with the food of heaven if we are of the cross of Christ, if we go out and spread His word of peace.

The reign of God is nigh unto you!

In serving at nursing home today, distributing communion and praying with the people, I go out as His disciple and I feel His nail marks in my body...

Bleed with Him, and you shall find joy.

Dear Jesus, send me forth I pray -  
make me a laborer in your vineyard  
wherever I am.

**July 6** (Hos.2:16-18,21-22; Ps.145:2-9; Mt.9:18-26)

On this the feast of Maria Goretti, my sister is much on my mind. The healing of Jairus' daughter I have always associated with my sister; and on this day we hear of the Lord espousing His people, my Baptist friend accepts the wearing of my sister's ring, which I have had since her death and worn on my finger (never removing it) for twelve years.

May the Lord bless us with such innocence and purity.

I love you, Lord,  
because you loved me.  
Raise us up unto life with you.

**July 7** (Hos.8:4-7,11-13; Ps.115:3-9; Mt.9:32-38)

We must be true to the one true Shepherd,  
and we must be obedient to the Church He has made.

Another book of scandal, another tearful confrontation  
with Protestant friend -

O come, Spirit of Truth!  
(Open her ears. Touch her heart.)

**July 8** (Hos.10:1-3,7-8,12; Ps.105:2-7; Mt.10:1-7)

It is time to seek the Lord;  
in Him, all is gain.

Go out. Go out to all your brothers;  
convert the heart of the wayward child.

On straight paths we shall walk,  
held up by the angel's blessings -  
and we shall behold the face of the Lord.

All iniquity remove from us, O Lord.  
Make us your own.

## **July 9**

(Hos.11:1,3-4,8-9; Ps.80:2-4,15-16; Mt.10:7-15)

Let us never reject the blessing of the Lord,  
who is so kind, who is so loving...  
How could we even think so?

It is difficult to imagine anyone spurning the healing  
hand of God, He who would turn His blazing anger from  
those most deserving - but we must think that some do...  
and so there's a hell.

(I would I had such patient forgiveness as He  
who would wrap humanity in bands of love.)

Bless me, Lord, with your healing graces -  
make me as you are, Father.

## July 10

(Hos.14:2-10; Ps.51:3-4,8-9,12-14,17; Mt.10:16-23)

If I were but clever as a snake, I would not err so in dealing with this world and its temptation - and I would not sin. I would speak in the Spirit only and nothing would perturb my peace. But I do lack of wisdom.

But the Lord is a forgiving God and there is hope in Him. He cleanses me of my sin as I come to Him, and though I may be blind, yet He does provide His measure of light.

O that I might walk with Him  
through this world.

Lord, come to me.  
Hear my confession and forgive my sins.  
Lead me in your way.

(The old men (myself included in that pair)  
play a masterful game, and defeat two youngsters  
handily in wiffle ball.)



**July 11** (Is.6:1-8; Ps.93:1-2,5; Mt.10:24-33)

"If they call the head of the house Beelzebul,  
how much more the members of His household."

Before Mass this morning (and before my having seen today's readings) a Protestant friend confides in me that all Protestant denominations call the Catholic Church the anti-Christ, whether they do it openly or not. True or not, this should not distract us, for such was said of our Lord.

An example of this analogy would be the verified multiplicity of healings accomplished at Marian sites such as Lourdes and Fatima, and yet the condemnation of this devotion despite its fruit.

Jesus does not heal by Beelzebul -  
no healing comes of the devil.

Also, the Lord speaks a word to me in prayer this morning: "Remain with me always." My inquiry of how receives no response; the word itself is sufficient, for Jesus is with us always and we must simply be with Him. (Do not fear, brothers and sisters.)

Lord, whatever may come,  
you are my shepherd and I shall not want.

You kiss my lips in the Eucharist  
and make me whole.

## July 12

(Dt.30:10-14; Ps.69:14,17,30-31,33-34,36-37;  
Col.1:15-20; Lk.10:25-37)

It is remarkable how I seem to be swimming in accord with the daily Scriptures at times...

Upon waking and in prayer, it was upon my heart that I do not pray enough for the poor and needy, that my heart is not enough upon those who are oppressed. Then I find the Good Samaritan parable at Mass.

Our hearts must open, too, to those who are in need of the Word, even those who would hurt us. The pastor at the Baptist church (whose sermon was based on a verse from yesterday's gospel - and I had thought of him and the church at the time) rips into the Catholic Church and its teaching on purgatory and works, etc. I receive it with open heart and in the Spirit, without anger (as a child), and speak to him of two verses which substantiate purgatory afterward. He has no answer. I promise to show him the Catechism's teaching on justification, grace, and merit...

And today, too, I hear of continuing fighting in Ireland - can they not even see they are brothers?

Lord, with hearts open in prayer to you,  
let us do your will.

(Thank you for letting me remain with you.)

## **July 13**

(Is.1:10-17; Ps.50:8-9,16-17,21,23; Mt.10:34-11:1)

Jesus' words are no justification of violence. Thinking of Ireland, they are rather a call to lay aside cultural and creedal and national pride, to lay down one's life and turn the other cheek. What would happen if a man refused to join in the attack on his Protestant or Catholic neighbor? How would his family react? Indeed!

Our sacrifice must be true; we must be of Christ.  
We must bring ourselves "to naught" for His sake.

Take my life, O Lord,  
that your word might live.

Let us build the bridge to true peace.

(Today I read of an agreement reached  
by the Catholic and Lutheran Churches  
on the doctrine of justification.)

**July 14** (Is.7:1-9; Ps.48:2-9; Mt.11:20-24)

Every day I receive the Lord, Body and Blood,  
in the Eucharist. I should not like to be exiled again,  
so I pray this blessing bears fruit in my life always.

Make me worthy, Lord, to be called your son.  
May the town in which I dwell  
be known by your name.

**July 15** (Is.10:5-7,13-16; Ps.94:5-10,14-15; Mt.11:25-27)

We must be as children for the Lord to reveal the Father to us. We must not be proud in what He gives us: we must but trust in Him.

We cannot boast of anything; we must give all over to the Lord, and we shall be blessed. Reading *True Devotion To Mary*, the saint says that indeed all should be given over to Mary so that she can perfect the gift before it is given to Jesus, always its ultimate end. I need yet to grow if I am to have such trust as a child of the Lord and His Lady.

Lord, guide my heart unto all truth.  
Dear Lady, may I have your salutary blessing.

(The beauty of the Blessed Mother is that she assumes nothing as her own, but gives all to Christ.)

**July 16** (Is.26:7-9,12,16-19; Ps.102:13-21; Mt.11:28-30)

The Lord looks down on His people, smoothing the road before them and giving them rest. But they must come to Him; they must call upon His name.

If the yoke of the Lord were upon my shoulders,  
the way would be easy...  
But how can I remain consistently with Him?

O that the shadow of His cross would pass over me and the depth of commitment I sense in my soul would persist unto eternity... and that I might find rest with Him.

Dear Lord, may I want nothing of this world  
but love all that you give me.

**July 17** (Is.38:1-8,21-22; Is.38:10-12,16-17; Mt.12:1-8)

"The Son of Man is indeed the Lord of the Sabbath"  
and the Lord of all our lives. He alone stands above  
us and holds our life's breath in His hands. For our  
sins we should die, but that He has mercy. We should  
have that same mercy toward one another.

In Confession I strive to turn away from sin, to amend  
my life, to make progress in His name. A day out with  
my Baptist friend, her mother, and two children they care  
for returns a sense of innocence and health to my soul...  
Perhaps I shall live more years. (May they all be lived  
in Him, in accord with His authoritative word.)

O my Lord and my God, I would you were with me  
here today  
and every day,  
delivering your blessed mercy in my life.

I would I would never judge  
or point a finger  
at another soul  
(as I do too often).

**July 18** (Mic.2:1-5; Ps.10:1-4,7-8,12,14; Mt.12:14-21)

The plottings of men are much a part of this world and much to be avoided; for them the Lord must return in power.

I have been so often duped because of my foolishness, so often I have borne the brunt of rude awakening. There are those certainly who are victims in this world, for whom the Lord will return in strength to save - but has He not said His disciples must be wise as serpents as well as harmless as doves? Should I not, then, know when to withdraw from dangerous situations? (Perhaps the darkness will have its hour in my life, too, but it seems to me I should be conscious of it as I go through it - and until that time, I should practice wisdom.)

Lord, withdraw me from the evil of men  
until I am ready to be offered to you.  
(O Wisdom, come to me.)



## **July 19**

(Gn.18:1-10; Ps.15:1-5; Col.1:24-28; Lk.10:38-42)

I suffer today, but not in joy - in anxiety. I do not serve with a full, humble heart like Abraham, expecting nothing and so receiving everything... but my heart is like Martha's, which cannot rest, which is troubled about many things - things I ought to give to the Lord.

Where is my trust? Why can I not find my way to the feet of the Lord? How will I ever receive His promise? How will I become complete?

Trust in me, says the Lord -  
but I am anxious to move the hand of the Savior.

Spirit of Truth, you alone rest with me;  
let me trust in the work of Christ in my life.

## July 20

(Mic.6:1-4,6-8; Ps.50:5-6,8-9,16-17,21,23;  
Mt.12:38-42)

Who is greater than the Lord? No one.  
And should we not listen as He speaks?  
Should we not seek Him always?  
What more need we see?

If I could but walk humbly with the Lord,  
listening to His voice,  
living in His discipline...

(After much prayer, I speak with my friend today, and we  
agree to give our relationship time - to see if the Lord  
shall draw us together.)

Lord, I want but to be in your hands,  
to find rest in your Spirit of Truth.  
May I indeed walk according to your blessed word,  
which does give me life.

**July 21** (Mic.7:14-15,18-20; Ps.85:2-8; Mt.12:46-50)

O heavenly Father, have compassion on us;  
make us your children.

(Let us live in Him and He in us,  
and all will be well with our souls.)

Beautiful reading and psalm on God's mercy - and the  
gospel bids us ask, "Who better did the will of the  
Father than Mary, she who gives all she is to the Lord."

... Did I tell you of the wonderful picture I had in my  
mind Saturday morning at Holy Hour: a transparent Mary  
radiating light upon Jesus, whose figure is clear through  
her. All prayer to Mary goes to Jesus, for she is wholly  
directed to Him.)

## July 22

(Sgs.3:1-4; Ps.63:2-6,8-9; Jn.20:1-2,11-18)

Mary Magdalene.

How she sought Him whom her heart loved,  
and so, how she found Him.

While it was still dark she came to the tomb.  
In the night she left to seek Him -  
only the watchmen were stirring at this time...  
But she continued on till He appeared.

Today I thirst greatly -  
the Lord alone can satiate our thirst for love.

May we come unto where He has ascended.  
(O what joy to find Him there!)

I am a sinful man, O Lord,  
but you have mercy on us poor sinners.  
May these eyes so blinded  
come to see your glory.

**July 23** (Jer.2:1-3,7-8,12-13; Ps.36:6-11; Mt.13:10-17)

A people once blessed turns to a curse...  
But eyes once blind now see again.

How shall we find the well of living water?  
How shall our eyes be cleansed to see?  
When shall our heart beat as that of the Lord?

After Communion this morning a wonderful sense and a  
wonderful thought: someday all we are will be of Jesus.  
O that blessed day!

One with you, O Lord, as your body, your senses,  
let us be.  
Returning from the wasteland, let us find your grace -  
open my eyes that I might see.

**July 24** (Jer.3:14-17; Jer.31:10-13; Mt.13:18-23)

How shall I bear fruit?  
What have I to give to the world?  
What is it will bring me to the heavenly Jerusalem?

Thinking of my writing and music and art again today -  
has been neglected... (read an article about a parish  
that supports a sculptor and produces other works)...  
Should I be bearing fruit there? Am I not trying well  
enough? Am I too preoccupied with other work?

But a simple, beautiful gift is given me: my Baptist  
friend calls and says, "You are not alone," just as  
I am feeling most alone. (Is she to be my wife?)

O Lord, I pray I shall produce fruit in your name -  
let my heart be set upon doing so.

**July 25** (2Cor.4:7-15; Ps.126:1-6; Mt.20:20-28)

Jesus gave His life,  
and so, too, did St. James -  
drinking of the same cup as His Master.

I would I could match such devout surrender.

Tell me I shall meet with you, Lord.  
Dear Jesus, may your light shine in my death.

## July 26

(Gn.18:20-32; Ps.138:1-3,6-8; Col.2:12-14; Lk.11:1-13)

Prayer. We must ask. If we ask, He will listen.  
If we seek His will, it shall be done.

I place the relationship with my friend in Jesus' hands -  
and it seems the problem is insurmountable.  
(Why are His children so separate?)

But today, too, I remember my Baptism into the death  
of Jesus (who raises from the dead), and I put my arms  
around Him upon the cross and beg His comfort.  
(The Spirit comes to the broken.)

Father, remove all sin from me  
that I may call upon you clearly  
and know your will for my life.



**July 27** (Jer.13:1-11; Dt.32:18-21; Mt.13:31-35)

If I had but faith as a mustard seed -  
but my pride dost stop this tree from growing...

What shall become of us, my sister, my friend?  
Can we wait upon the workings of the Lord's hand?  
What hope is there for a Baptist and a Catholic?

O Lord, let us never rot in your presence.  
Let all your children grow unto heaven.

**July 28** (Jer.14:17-22; Ps.79:8-9,11,13; Mt.13:36-43)

My eyes stream with tears;  
the wound seems incurable.

Is it the evil one who has sown these weeds of dissension  
and despair? He is tricky and sometimes difficult to  
decipher. But the name of Jesus causes Him to flee,  
as he will at the end of the age.

The devil works his terrors upon me in anger and despair  
- but in conversation with my friend I posit the Name of  
the Lord and His will... and soon hearts melt and truth  
and love reign.

We must be on guard against the wiles of the devil.

O Lord, let Satan sift me not;  
cast him far from my presence  
and into the fiery furnace.

## July 29

(Jer.15:10,16-21; Ps.59:2-4,10-11,17-18; Lk.10:38-42)

O Lord, free me "from the hand of the wicked"  
and rescue me "from the grasp of the violent."

I continue to cry like the prophet Jeremiah, and trials continue to come. (I am unable to remove key from ignition; Triple A comes - it comes out immediately. Coming from there, I lock myself out of the house. Other tenant out for two hours.) Trying to reconcile with friend, it is difficult... and a headache doesn't help. (Is she not a pearl of great price? - reference to ordinary gospel.) I have to find a place at Jesus' feet.

Lord, you are "my refuge on the day of distress."  
Instill in me your patience and mercy.  
Let me not sit alone in indignation;  
remove all vile pride from my soul.

Can I not be a "solid wall of brass" standing in your presence?

(Wrote another letter to Baptist pastor.  
Discuss judging as well as troubles with friend...  
But it is seventh birthday for childhood friend's son,  
which is where I end up when locked out.)

**July 30** (Jer.18:1-6; Ps.146:1-6; Mt.13:47-53)

We are in the hands of God and He will make of us  
what He will, what we deserve.

Make of me what you will, dear Lord,  
but make me worthy of heaven.

(Seem to be reconciling relationship with friend;  
perhaps what the Lord has crushed  
He will remake in a better form.  
I only pray we shall indeed be with Him.)

**July 31** (Jer.26:1-9; Ps.69:5,8-10,14; Mt.13:54-58)

Jeremiah is surrounded for stoning,  
and Jesus is rejected by His townspeople...

I am told by my friend today that her pastor has suggested  
that she and her mother and the children they care for  
not socialize with me - for the sin of being Catholic.

"Those outnumber the hairs of my head"  
who hate the Lord's Bride.

"For your sake I bear insult," O Lord,  
but how I shall need your patience,  
your strength,  
and your love.

I call upon you, O Lord;  
grant me the peace which passes understanding.

## August 1

(Jer.26:11-16,24; Ps.69:14-16,30-31,33-34; Mt.14:1-12)

I may be crazy, but...

The God whom I seek makes my heart merry as I believe  
"I will praise the name of God in song;"  
I will proclaim His truth in the assembly of the people.

My friend mentions taking guitar lessons in the fall  
and I am soon overwhelmed by a marvelous spirit -  
looking into her eyes I believe I see my wife, and not  
only my wife but a partner in song... a blessed answer  
to a prayer long held but almost forgotten. Can this  
which comes out of the blue and makes me euphoric be so?

May the dance of lust be cast to hell;  
let love find its place and its voice.

Lord, after so much suffering, would you bless me so -  
would you make my joy complete?

In your hands I place my life.  
(Angel of God, be with me.)

## **August 2**

(Ec.1:2,2:21-23; Ps.95:1-2,6-9; Col.3:1-5,9-11;  
Lk.12:13-21)

The riches of this world are vanity and an illusion;  
they profit nothing but what can be profited by them.

Our hearts must be set upon heavenly matter,  
of which this world is a pale reflection.  
If we lose ourselves in its darkness,  
we shall surely die.

Find yourself as the image of the Creator,  
and all will have life for you.  
Cast out all sin (I hope to)  
and riches shall be yours.

Heavenly wealth please grant us, Lord,  
as in your name we trust  
and in your presence we remain.

## **August 3**

(Jer.28:1-17; Ps.119:29,4368,79-80,95,102;  
Mt.14 :13-21)

The word of the Lord came to the prophet Jeremiah;  
he listened and was obedient. Though it meant  
difficulties for himself and the people,  
it was the truth and he had to speak it.

Jesus is the Word Himself. His word is not easy  
to accept and not always obvious to the eye,  
but His providence takes care of all matters.  
He feeds us with His flesh.

If we are in sin, let us face up to our shortcomings.  
If we are in need, let us come to Him.

For those who seek the truth, there shall be happiness.

Feed me, Lord, by your word  
in my deeds.



## **August 4**

(Jer.30:1-2,12-15,18-22; Ps.102:16-23,29;  
Mt.14:22-36)

We lose faith sometimes and seem to be drowning, but  
when we cry out, Jesus is there to stretch out His hand.

If only I could remain with Him as I pray I shall...

Restore the fortunes of your struggling Church, Lord.  
Set it on the solid rock of your truth,  
and let it grow in you.

(St. John Vianney today - may our priests lead us home.)

## **August 5**

(Jer.31:1-7; Jer.31:10-13; Mt.15:21-28)

If I might have a crumb that falls from the table of the Lord, if He would be with me even in such a small way - if He would be with me... then I might be restored; then I might enter the house of the Lord.

Bring me back, Lord, into your grace.  
Please let me remain close to you.  
You have pity on your people;  
    heal me.

## **August 6**

(Dn.7:9-10,13-14; Ps.97:1-2,5-6,9; 2Pt.1:16-19;  
Lk.9:28-36)

Indeed on this the Feast of the Transfiguration dawn comes this morning as a welcome visitor, dispelling the darkness of a difficult night. The whiteness of the light of the Lord, the purity of His presence will ever dispel all doubt and fear.

And again this morning I am given two hosts to eat - and again I ask, "Am I eating for my friend?"

O Lord, do prepare our hearts to stand  
in your glorious presence.  
Keep us from all sin  
and reign in our lives, Beloved Son.

(Sometimes I know not what to do -  
in that time, bring your light.)

**August 7** (Nah.2:1,3,3:1-3,6-7; Dt.32:35-36,39,41;  
Mt.16:24-28)

"Follow in my footsteps."

(Walking home from Mass I imagine myself walking where Jesus walked, following in His footsteps, knowing He goes before me... and I look down and see a paper with two footsteps on it - a carpet ad or something, with a statement at the bottom saying it is their pleasure to serve us. Should become a work of art.)

This world is but a passing thing; the greatest of kingdoms crumble and are no more. Find yourself beneath the cross of the Lord, that when He comes with the angels you shall not be destroyed.

(Broken horn finally fixed by friends today...)

Dear Lord, never leave me;  
    you are my refuge.  
Let me walk always with you.

## **August 8**

(Hb.1:12-2:4; Ps.9:8-13; Mt.17:14-20)

Bring your justice, O Lord.  
Cast the demons far from us.  
Out of me let go all that is not holy,  
    all that is not true.  
May wickedness not triumph over any of your own.

I see today that I carry within me spirits of jealousy  
and suspicion, and I pray the Lord root them out of me.  
(And I believe He will.)

We must trust in Him, brothers and sisters,  
    and the impossible will be real.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
The oppressed cry out  
    and await your word.

("There's only a drop left," says the Eucharistic  
minister. Faith the size of a mustard seed  
is all we need... The Lord is sufficient.)

## **August 9**

(Ws.18:6-9; Ps.33:1,12,18-20,22; Heb.11:1-2,8-19;  
Lk.12:32-48)

Waiting for the day. Expecting the day.  
Having faith that the day will come.  
Working toward it. (Here is our call.)

Walking to church this morning I tighten my belt -  
but am I ready? (How can one confused and sinful  
as I claim so?) If I had but faith, I would know  
the day's coming.

How shall I serve you, Lord?  
How shall I remain with you?

(Children of the promise, children of faith let us be,  
walking toward Him, though we know not where.)

## **August 10**

(Ez.1:2-5,24-28; Ps.148:1-2,11-14; Mt.17:22-27)

St. Laurence, deacon and martyr, who generously gave his life, and so found it in God.

We see Jesus ready to give His life today, and to pay His temple tax. ("Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's.")

Our lives are God's, and in laying them down we will find the majestic splendor of our God.

Praise you, Lord!

Make us so ready to give ourselves.

## **August 11**

(Ez.2:8-3:4; Ps.119:14,24,72,103,111,131;

Mt.18:1-5,10,12-14)

I feel like a lost sheep found by the Lord; as my friend and I follow the sweetness of the Lord's command in our relationship, joy of heart is ours.

And in response to my childhood friend's persistent questioning of suffering, I believe I have been given an answer: what if, say, the little children who are suffering, what if their angels constantly behold the face of God - what if He holds them ever in His hands, ever protecting them, comforting them, even in their apparent pain? And what if He allows you and I to see this, that our hearts might be opened to love? Aside from this, what if there has been someone who has despised these little ones, bringing about their suffering?

We are responsible, brothers and sisters,  
for all those in our care.

(P.S. Is not the question of suffering best answered by Christ's crucifixion? He suffers that we might find love and live; and He who died is now in majestic splendor in Heaven.)

Lord, save us by your suffering;  
instruct us in your ways.



**August 12** (Ez.9:1-7,10:18-22; Ps.113:1-6; Mt.18:15-20)

Protecting and destroying, binding and loosing -  
the angelic forces are at work in the world even  
to this day. Praise God!

The Lord sees all from where He sits in the heavens,  
and His power is at work in us for good.

(There is an X upon this page.)

And today I get copies made of *The Will To Love*.

Fly on, angels of God,  
and may your work be done  
according to His will.

The Lord's blessing be upon our lives.

**August 13** (Ez.12:1-12; Ps.78:56-59,61-61; Mt.18:21-19:1)

I see and hear clearly in this morning's gospel that we should always remember all that the Lord has forgiven us and continues to forgive us every day. Thus we may easily forgive others their wrongs against us.

Waiting and waiting in a government office today, it is difficult to forgive what seems such incompetence, but should be an occasion for indeed remembering how merciful the Lord has been to me. (All in His hands.)

Let us not be so rebellious as to forget  
your forgiveness, Lord.  
May there be no exile from thy mercy.  
Holy Spirit, come among your people.

**August 14** (Ez.16:59-63; Is.12:1-6; Mt.19:3-12)

My friend sees her divorced father and so is late  
in meeting me. I believe she would cling to me,  
but there must be no lewdness. (In this day  
and age how even harder it is to marry.)

If the Lord would pardon all I've done and set my  
heart aright, I would be put to shame - and so grateful.  
For it does not seem I could forego sexual activity.

Kingdom of God, let us be wed unto thee  
eternally.

## **August 15**

(Rv.11:19,12:1-6,10; Ps.45:10-12,16;  
1Cor.15:20-26; Lk.1:39-56)

Blessed is she, the Queen in gold of Ophir  
who has given birth to the Lord!

Who are we to look upon her majesty,  
she the humblest of all creatures,  
she the most exalted by God?

In her we take refuge,  
longing for the day of the Lord,  
seeking our place by His side.

O Mother in Heaven, turn thy merciful gaze upon us.  
You whose soul does magnify the Lord -  
O that our eyes might be opened to see Him  
who is our salvation.

## **August 16**

(Jer.38:4-6,8-10; Ps.40:2-4,14,18; Heb.12:1-4;  
Lk.12:49-53)

May this world be drawn out of the mud  
before it dies.  
May the cleansing fire of truth  
purge this place.

Sometimes the world seems such a dark place of greed and  
immorality as we see the commercialism and disrespect  
for life which so permeates society (athletes sporting  
advertisements, making millions while people slave and  
starve; couples preventing and killing babies...).

What is to become of this place?  
May we have hope.

O Lord, let your Spirit separate wheat from chaff -  
let all our sins be consumed  
as we remain in thee.

## August 17

(Ez.24:15-24; Dt.32:18-21; Mt.19:16-22)

"By a sudden blow" I thought the Lord might take from me the "delight" of my eyes. Indeed, as I listened to Ezekiel this morning (in another church), it occurred to me that I might lose my friend to our problem. And the gospel certainly put me in the mind of the Franciscans.

In fact, the end did appear imminent as we met today - and her insistence on my conversion persists. But I try not to lose hope.

This evening I wandered out to the church, thinking to pray, and discovered members of the Hispanic community congregating to say the rosary. I learned that one member/acquaintance is prepared to join the Jesuits this Saturday, and spoke with a woman who had been planning on marrying but was now considering religious life.

The rainfall matches my tears today.  
Soon I pray I shall find my way with Jesus.

Lord, what is your will?  
Make me not obstinate -  
    may I trust in you for all things.

## **August 18**

(Ez.28:1-10; Dt.32:26-28,30,35-36,39; Mt.19:23-30)

Today I express concern for our administrator, who has seemed anxious about the finances of the church, perhaps not seeing that it is the Lord who builds the house...

And perhaps I take a step to acquiring wife, children, and property today in my interview for a graduate assistantship. Would I move toward that which I have avoided so long? Is this wise? Only if it is the Lord who builds the house, for only He "deals death and gives life."

O Lord, all I ask is to pass through to eternal life.

(Looking at the ground at my sister's grave,  
I sense that life which is beyond this world -  
the kingdom of heaven is in our midst, is all around...  
it is not in a far-off place.)

## August 19

(Ez.34 :1-11; Ps.23 :1-6; Mt.20:1-16)

The Lord is the true Shepherd, leading His flock to pasture in Him. All shall find reward in His vineyard.  
(In His vineyard, His blood flows; in His pasture, we eat His body)

Today I witness three falls - a nun at altar while helping with communion, a woman in the street (whom an acquaintance and I give a ride to the hospital), and a boy at the supermarket (a harmless fall).  
And it seems my friend and I are falling more in love...  
O that the Lord's shepherding hand be upon us.

Give me rest, O Lord, in thy arms.  
Together let us come unto thee  
and find our place in your kingdom.

(Joyful fruits to discussion with priest familiar with Hebrew about the tetragrammaton - silent word seems so...  
By Him who is awesome, let us be led.)



## August 20

(Ez.36:23-28; Ps.51:12-15,18-19,Ez.36:25;  
Mt.22:1-14)

I came out of the house this morning, looked up at the sky, turned all around... and could not find a single cloud - the sky was blue, very blue. The Lord washes away our sins. But we must be prepared to receive His gifts.

And on this day I visit the shore and the sea (and the boardwalk) with my friend and his nephews. (And on this day I learn I have received a graduate assistantship.)

On this day I take one of my friend's nephews, though he had no money. On this day we all get on the beach free of charge, and get a break on food...

His blessings are ours if we receive them well,  
and I am finding myself ready for His blessings.

Lord, let me remain with you always  
and in all things - for you are our life.

## **August 21**

(Ez.37:1-4; Ps.107:1-9; Mt.22:34-40)

And they were silenced by His authority, by His word,  
for He speaks but Truth. Love. Love God and neighbor,  
and even the dry bones of death will grow sinew and you  
will be resurrected.

What hope does the prophecy of Ezekiel bring -  
that even death shall not be an obstacle.  
What perfection do Jesus' words speak -  
that in love we shall be children of God.

I love my Baptist friend so, and she seems to reciprocate;  
there must be a way that it shall work.

O Lord, bring us into the light of your presence;  
there let us converse in thy Spirit.

**August 22** (Ez.43:1-7; Ps.85:9-14; Mt.23:1-12)

What a temple the Lord is preparing for us -  
a place where none lord it over the people,  
but where Jesus reigns.

Hallelujah, Lord! Let thy kingdom come.

I am but a sinner;  
enable me to do your word.

(My friend leaves a message that the sky is blue.)

The world shall pass away (in a moment) and all worldly  
esteem shall pass with it. (Re conversation with two  
cousins, at reunion party.) Let heaven come.

Dear Lord, your glory shine in our midst;  
help all people to accept your will.

(Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.)

## **August 23**

(Is.66:18-21; Ps.117:1-2,Mk.16:15;  
Heb.12:5-7,11-13; Lk.13:22-30)

The Lord's holy mountain is vast and inhabited by men  
of every nation; the way that leads to it is narrow,  
and only those of God come there.

May the discipline of the Lord be upon me  
that I might find the way.

(I spend an extra hour in church after prayer meeting,  
seeking the truth that leads to life.)

Lord, may I never eat and drink at your table  
in vain.

Thank you for remaining with me;  
lead me unto thy kingdom  
which is all around us.

**August 24** (Rv.21:9-14; Ps.145:10-13,17-18; Jn.1:45-51)

I beg my Baptist friend to come to my church and sit before the Blessed Sacrament. I believe that she is without guile, and will open herself to the truth of the Lord's presence. (I cry as I hold her to myself and plead.) She does not go today, but does promise to try soon...

O Lord, are we not both of Truth?  
Do we not both seek you with all our hearts?  
Do we not both long to enter your heavenly gates?

Let your will be done.  
(Make us as your disciples.)

## **August 25**

(2Thes.2:1-3,14-17; Ps.96:10-13; Mt.23:23-26)

O how the inside of this cup needs yet to be cleaned!  
For when I look, I see such things to merit condemnation  
- lust and anger and jealousy, and a lack of trust in and  
obedience to the Lord. When shall it be cleansed from me  
this sin, and when shall I come to heaven as the Blessed  
Mother invites? When shall my life become prayer?

There are blessed moments in this inconstant day -  
as I walk amongst people, I pray for them (also  
praying the rosary), and I find blessings ready  
to come forth from my soul.

Yet I must ask, for what was I born?

Lord, console my troubled, sinful heart -  
let it rest in you without judgment.  
Forgive my sins, O Lord.

**August 26** (2Thes.3:6-10,16-18; Ps.128:1-2,4-5; Mt.23:27-32)

The quote from *Hamlet* comes to mind: "I have that within which passes show, these but the trappings and suits of woe."

There is a sadness and a loneliness upon me, a depth of sadness almost complete - to my bones I feel it.

And I do begin to do things, to work a little today...

Lord, I thank you for your forgiveness.

Remain always with me;

I know your suffering is the source of joy.

**August 27** (1Cor.1:1-9; Ps.145:1-7; Mt.24:42-51)

We must remain faithful Christians, till the end.

Lord, let not my house not be broken into.

(The perseverance of Monica with her son Augustine should teach us reams about patience, hope, and fortitude. And so, why do I become so dismayed and despondent regarding my friend? Keep the faith, brothers and sisters.)



## **August 28**

(1Cor.1:17-25; Ps.33:1-2,4-5,10-11; Mt.25:1-13)

(Also attended healing Mass this evening.)

O that the wisdom of the cross of the Lord might be upon me, that it might be engraved in my soul to lead me through this world - that I might be waiting with eyes open for His coming.

Perhaps such wisdom is becoming known to me in the suffering I yet feel constantly with me. Perhaps it shall replace the sin and foolishness so much a part of me. Perhaps then I shall be prepared for the Lord's return.

Let me not lose myself in the labyrinth of confusion that is the world's "wisdom."

Lord, let me simply live for you.

(Heal my troubled soul, and that of the world.)

## **August 29**

(Jer.1:17-19; Ps.33:12-13,18-21; Mk.6:17-29)

The Beheading of John the Baptist.

The Lord encourages Jeremiah to stand and speak the truth; and is there a greater truth-speaker than St. John?

I am most discouraged in my attempts to engender understanding with my Baptist friend and ready to give up, but I take the Lord's words as encouragement to continue. I read today and find the Lord's wisdom upon me, His truth within me. And so I may go on...

Lord, may my mind indeed be of your light and wisdom;  
may it be your truth alone I seek and speak.  
Leave me not alone.

(To cry out the truth unto death is not easily done -  
only with Christ can it be.)

## **August 30**

(Sir.3:17-18,20,28-29; Ps.68:4-7,10-11;  
Heb.12:18-19,22-24; Lk.14:1,7-14)

Lower yourself and you will be exalted,  
you will come unto the heavenly Jerusalem.

I know nothing, Lord,  
and this pain I give to you.

Lord, please let your will be accomplished in my life.

(There is a call, if I could but hear it...  
patience, indeed - silence, blessed silence.)

**August 31** (1Cor.2:1-5; Ps.119:97-102; Lk.4:16-30)

The proclamation of truth is not always easy,  
and not always pleasing to the ear.

We must not confuse the wisdom and blessing of God  
with that of the world. God's ways are above ours  
and we must give ourselves over to Him, and His power  
will watch over us in all things. We must walk in  
His ways and be obedient to His commands.

As I prepare to begin graduate school still I wonder  
if this is His will and His wisdom and way. But the  
Lord blesses me with greater chastity as His suffering  
I accept in my soul. (It may be my sight shall be  
recovered.) And I pray the Lord will release my Baptist  
friend from the severe pain she experiences in her back  
and neck (from a car accident).

O Lord, none has particular claim upon thee  
and thy power.

May we accept you as Lord of all  
and Savior of the *whole* human race,  
and so find healing.

**September 1** (1Cor.2:10-16; Ps.145:8-14,17; Lk.4:31-37)

I pray a demon has come out of me.

And I speak of spiritual matters in the Spirit;  
I scrutinize my innermost self, finding my sin  
and from whence it comes. And clearly do I  
confess it and hope for better.

The Lord is faithful in hearing our prayers,  
and He comes to comfort me in my affliction this day.

Peace now, I pray.

Lord, teach me to know your love  
and seek your way  
in all things.

Heal this sinner.

## September 2

(1Cor.3:1-9; Ps.33:12-15,20-21; Lk.4:38-44)

Only God gives the growth - how true this is. It is He who enables us for any action. By Christ's intercession, Simon's mother-in-law rose and "waited on them."

Anything we do, brothers and sisters, is only by the power of God. We should take no pride, and we should create no divisions. Be a child of the Lord and not this world.

I continue my ecumenical outreach to my friend's Reformed Baptist church. As Catholics we believe God does bless other churches with portions of His Spirit. Amongst our separated brethren we can find such gifts. So I find great blessing in my ecumenical attitude. (For here is preaching rather lacking in my Catholic home.)

Bind us together, Lord, in your love.  
Spirit, fall upon all your children  
and make them one.

**September 3** (1Cor.3:18-23; Ps.24:1-6; Lk.5:1-11)

All belongs to God,  
so give all you have over to Him.

Today I begin graduate school.  
Today I find my relationship with my Baptist friend  
improving.  
Today I live and breathe in greater purity.  
Today I work.

All these things and so many others I give over  
to the Lord, and pray they may be His.

All in your Name, O Lord, or not at all.

## **September 4**

(1Cor.4:1-5; Ps.37:3-6,27-28,39-40;

Lk.5:33-39)

The new wine of the New Covenant is poured into new skins; the skin of the new is the Catholic Church (as the old was in Jerusalem). Let us of the New Jerusalem rejoice at the presence of God in our midst.

From the apostles to this day the Church is ministered to by those of the Lord. Let us not grow old in His presence. Let us receive Him well in all ways He comes to us. May we ever be in communion with His body and so never judge, but love as He has loved.

Lord, pour your new wine into me each day,  
and let me only burst with joy.



**September 5** (1Cor.4:9-15; Ps.145:17-21; Lk.6:1-5)

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath,  
and Paul is father to the Corinthians;  
we own that which we bear.

The Lord has made us in His image, as He  
has made all things according to His word.  
Let us respect that which is His.

We owe Him our lives.

(Today I imagine dying with Jesus, for Jesus;  
I am becoming less afraid of death.  
Yes, do give all to Him.)

Father of us all, make us your children,  
obedient to your word,  
living in your love.

## September 6

(Ws.9:13-18; Ps.90:1,3-6,12-14,17;  
Phlm.1:9-10,12-17; Lk.14:25-33)

Yes, all we have must be given over to the Lord;  
how else can it be that we are His children?

The straightening of our paths consists mainly in this,  
that we give ourselves freely to Christ -  
this is the wisdom that saves us.

It must be remembered that it is the cross of Christ that  
liberates us. It is not burdensome; it makes all easy to  
bear because in it there is nothing to weigh us down -  
it is light as a dove.

Come, Holy Spirit, from on high  
and take all that we are to the Lord.  
Dear Jesus, please let me be your disciple.

## September 7

(2Thes.3:6-12,16; Ps.90:2-4,12-17; Lk.6:6-11)

Labor Day in America, and so the above readings.

Upon hearing Paul exhort the Thessalonians to "avoid any brother who...does not follow the tradition" he passed along, I thought perhaps not to picnic with members of my Baptist friend's church. Further inspection revealed that Paul was speaking of avoiding those who refused to work. Ironically, I labored more today - not only in the games played but in setting up for them, etc. - than I have all year.

O Lord, any time I would welcome your healing in my life.  
Work upon me always, Lord,  
to bring me into your kingdom.

## September 8

(Rm.8:28-30; Ps.13:6,Is.61:9; Mt.1:18-23)

Birth of Mary commemorated.

The Lord has provided for Himself (and so for us) a Blessed Mother. And so the Virgin has borne a Child, and so the darkness of sin is banished.

This night I rest in the arms of my soul's desire... and I am her baby, and she desires a child. Near the church of St. John the Baptist we are as we discuss infant baptism.

And now at bedtime I find myself upon a new mattress.

What shall be born of this, O Lord?  
May all of it be in your holy will,  
that in your glory we might rejoice.

## September 9

(1Cor.7:25-31; Ps.45:11-12,14-17; Lk.6:20-26)

"The world as we know it is passing away," and as it goes so will all of its illusion, all that falls short of the glory of God. Yes, we should not put much stock in that which shall one day be no more, but wait in expectation for the kingdom to come.

It is true that my Baptist friend and I have been talking of the possibility of marriage, and I have been attempting to purify myself for such a call... but, indeed, it must always be kept in mind that Christ is the spouse of us all. In Him alone can we rejoice.

Jesus, may you take all my plans and possibilities,  
that all might be oriented toward  
your eternal kingdom.

## September 10

(1Cor.8:1-7,11-13; Ps.139:1-3,13-14,23-24;  
Lk.6:27-38)

O Jesus' beautiful words of Truth!

Love your enemy. Who can find the wisdom inherent in this ideal? Expect no repayment, my brother, for the sacrifices you make, and you will know love.

All our thoughts and actions should be oriented toward the upbuilding of the Body of Christ. May I remember this always in my relationship with my sister.

Lord, to know and live your love  
is joy beyond compare,  
beyond words.

Only you who are the Word  
could speak such utter purity.

## **September 11**

(1Cor.9:16-19,22-27; Ps.84:2-6,8,12;  
Lk.6:39-42)

How difficult it is at times to "discipline my own body", to "remove the plank" from my eye. Sin enters in and I am unaware of its ways - and soon I find myself falling. But the Lord is "a sun and a shield"; He calls me back and teaches me His ways.

May I learn, O Lord, the lesson you would teach me.  
In observing you, make me ready to run my race.

## September 12

(1Cor.10:14-22; Ps.116:12-13,17-18;

Lk.6:43-49)

If we do not do the will of the Lord, we shall not be strong. If we take not up the cup of His salvation, weak indeed will we be. We must become one in His body, one in His blood - walking according to His will - and all will be well... and we will be strong.

We must be founded in Christ, brothers and sisters.

We must walk in His ways.

This alone will take us where we want to go.

I love you, Lord, indeed.

May we watch our lives unfold in your will  
and your will alone.



## September 13

(Ex.32:7-11,13-14; Ps.51:3-4,12-13,17,19,  
Lk.15:18; 1Tm.1:12-17; Lk.15:1-32)

The sinner and his repentance:  
from the depths of depravity  
to a seat at the Lord's table.

I enter deeply into prayer this afternoon,  
looking inside myself, seeking truth,  
and from this painful reflection  
comes great joy.

And my prayer this evening is of great strength.

Lord, be ever so close to me  
that never shall I stray.  
Take me home.

## September 14

(Nm.21:4-9; Ps.78:1-2,34-38; Phil.2:6-11;  
Jn.3:13-17)

Holy Cross...

Nail my sins to the cross, O Lord,  
that they might be dead.

(He who has died is God -  
believe in Him  
and be saved from your sin.)

My sins rise unto my neck...  
may His cross overshadow me.)

## September 15

(Heb.5:7-9; Ps.31:2-6,15-17,20; Jn.19:25-27)

Our Lady of Sorrows...

Standing at the foot of the cross, a sword pierced her heart as she mourned the loss of her son, as she shared in His painful death. (We must be the consolation for our Mother.)

O Christ, how could you suffer so  
for the sake of sinners like us.

O Mother, how painful to keep these things in your heart.

(O man, you best make His suffering your refuge.)

## September 16

(1Cor.12:31-13:13; Ps.33:2-5,12,22;

Lk.7:31-35)

I tell my friend today that I love her more than anything in the world - and my words ring true.

What the Lord will do with my life, I will accept. Today I eat almost as normal - for the first time in over three years I have not fasted on bread (at least in part, as for the past few months) on a Wednesday. Whether I eat or whether I fast is of little importance to me - I only pray the Lord's will be done.

Take my hunger, O Lord, and my food.

Take my love and make it whole.

May all be given unto you.

## **September 17**

(1Cor.15:1-11; Ps.118:1-2,16-17,28;  
Lk.7:36-50)

He is risen from the dead. He is Lord  
and forgives our sins.

The greatest sinners amongst us can become the greatest  
saints. I pray only to accomplish the Lord's will and  
be able to say, "I am what I am" because of Him.

How will you work in my life, O Lord?  
I would speak for you if you would have me.  
I pray for your wisdom and my humility.

## September 18

(1Cor.15:12-20; Ps.17:1,6-8,15; Lk.8:1-3)

"On waking, I shall be content in your presence."

Yes, our hopes in Christ are not limited to this life only; we shall accompany Him unto death and so share in His resurrection.

Even as I hold my friend this day, I know my caress is not limited to this flesh - my love extends to heaven. I sense the Lord's smile as we mirror one another's tenderness. God's children we are.

Do all things as if you are not doing them, my friend; keep your heart set on heaven all along the road.

Lord, you have been raised from the dead;  
may we walk with you as we travel through life,  
ever serving you out of our means.

## September 19

(1Cor.15:35-37;42-49; Ps.56:10-14; Lk.8:4-15)

Seeds - "semillas".

We are but seeds sown upon this earth with the hope of sprouting unto heaven. These bodies themselves matter little in the end, but they must be whole if they are to produce the fruit of eternal life.

Seeds is indeed the theme for the day: I learn the Spanish translation; the seeds are what make the pepper hot; caraway seeds (blended) as a cure for baldness(?); and, yes, how shall my own seeds best be sown...

I suppose one could further St. Paul's analogy by saying our glorified bodies are no more like our present ones than our present ones resemble our father's seed.

O Lord, let nothing choke my growth in you.  
Though your chastisements seem hard sometimes,  
may I always remember that you wound and you heal.

## September 20

(Amos 8:4-7; Ps.113:1-2,4-8; 1Tm.2:1-8;  
Lk.16:1-13)

How do we use this world's goods?  
Do we put them at the service of God?  
Are we making the most of our time and talents?

These thoughts give me pause this day.  
Am I doing as the Lord would have me do?

Money is not to be wasted. Power is not to be abused.  
And love is not to be taken for granted.  
We will be judged according to our actions in this world.

Lord, I wish I could raise blameless hands,  
but I lie prostrate before you.  
Indeed, may I employ your gifts well;  
a false heart take from me.

(Please, let your will be done.)



## September 21

(Eph.4:1-7,11-13; Ps.19:2-5; Mt.9:9-13)

St. Matthew.

(Does the Lord not send us all out?)

Throughout the earth the word goes forth, calling all sinners to His mercy. I am so glad to say that He has come for me, a sinner. Not that I delight in my sin, but certainly in His forgiveness.

May He rectify His sinful Church. "Make every effort to preserve the unity," says St. Paul. We are one, and yet we are broken in 300 pieces scattered about the face of the earth. How can it be? In this year of the Holy Spirit, I know only His power will unite this shamefully disparate Body.

How it must grieve our Lord.

O Lord, call us forth into your light,  
into the fullness of your truth.  
Leave us not to our own devices.

## September 22

(Prv.21:1-6,10-13; Ps.119:1,27,30,34-35,44;

Lk.8:19-21)

How poorly I act upon the word of the Lord;  
how weak I am.

It is so easy to be right in our own eyes,  
to excuse our wrongdoing,  
to forget His commands -  
but the Lord does not permit sin,  
nor can He approve of it.

Lord, I would I could be called your brother,  
but how shall I enter your home?  
(O that I might find discipline.)

## September 23

(Prv.30:5-9; Ps.119:29,72,89,101,104,163;  
Lk.9:1-6)

The apostles go forth to cast out demons  
in the name of the Lord;  
and I sit, wishing to join them,  
but still in need of healing myself.

Let me never speak against you, dear Lord;  
let me never turn my face away.  
May your word indeed I cherish  
as a lamp for my feet.

(The Mets have lost two in a row  
and their playoff hopes are up in the air...

And as for my fast -  
Give me, Lord, the food I need,  
not too much or too little,  
both physically and spiritually.

I am uncertain what to do -  
I eat nothing until later in the afternoon,  
then eat a "feast" (with meat, too)...

Please even me out, Dear Jesus.)

## September 24

(Ec.1:2-11; Ps.90:1,3-6,12-14,17; Lk.9:7-9)

Curious is Herod, perhaps seeking that which would take him off the wheel of life; perhaps despite himself. Something leads him to fill the emptiness of his debauched life. (The Lord, indeed, is our only refuge in this otherwise vain existence - He is our Savior.)

I toil "under the sun" today, running from place to place, job to job, class to class, meeting to meeting... sweating - all the day till well into the night. But this morning there is refuge as I come upon a chapel in a hospital and am favored with extended time before the Blessed Sacrament and prayer on the rosary.

Today, too, my friend is in her womanly way - but she does manage to sing: "He has made me glad."

You are He, Dear Lord,  
    who makes life worth the time.  
Without you how empty we would be.

"Fill us at daybreak with your kindness."

Note: On this the last day of the Mother's message to pray always (tomorrow a comes a new one), it is confirmed that I should say the entire rosary (three mysteries) each day.

## September 25

(Ec.3:1-11; Ps.144:1-4; Lk.9:18-22)

Yes, there is a time for everything.  
And there was a time for the Son of Man  
to come into the world, suffer, and die -  
and then "be raised up on the third day."

Jesus strictly instructs the apostles not to tell anyone  
who He is - it is not time. We must live in accord with  
His word and His will, in His time.

Soon all will be in His light.

Today there are clouds and tears in the rain;  
then there is sun and smiles.  
There is heaven, too, and we must find it  
and live it.

O Lord, let there be a time for us  
to come into your presence  
forever.

## September 26

(Ec.11:9-12:8; Ps.90:1,3-6,12-14,17;  
Lk.9:43-45)

In the midst of life, remember death,  
and you will be saved from straying;  
know that this world is not your end,  
that when it ends,  
you shall not die.

In my deeds even now I must show my faith , I must live  
His word, that when this body returns to dust, I shall  
not be found with it.

The Blessed Mother watches over me, engendering purity,  
helping to keep her children straight. I see the effect  
of the rosary on a wayward girl; and as I move toward  
a fall, "Immaculate Mary" rings out upon church bells,  
and the right path returns.

In the beginning we cry, and in the end (Mariachi singers  
play this), but what's between will bring us unto life  
or death.

Lord, when delivered into the hands of men,  
let our faith be its strongest -  
Mother, watch over us along the way.

**September 27**

(Amos 6:1,4-7; Ps.146:2,5-10; 1Tm.6:11-16;  
Lk.16:19-31)

Blessed are the poor in spirit...

Keep us humble, Lord.

## September 28

(Job 1:6-22; Ps.17:1-3,6-7; Lk.9:46-50)

The least among us is the greatest -  
if only we could remember this,  
how humble we would be...  
and how joyful.

What we have belongs to God - it is not our own.  
The least among us know this and live this,  
and so they are blessed by God  
and have no pride in themselves.

Let your word come, O Lord,  
and your will be done.  
As a child make us, Lord.

(She is a child in her innocence,  
and I am a child in love.)



## September 29

(Dn.7:9-10,13-14; Ps.138:1-5; Jn.1:47-51)

Feast of the Archangels.

The angels of heaven praise the name of the Lord,  
and through Jesus they visit us, blessing and protecting  
our lives and bringing us to Him, that we might join  
in their praise.

Lord, make us so innocent,  
that we might always behold you.  
If without guile, we will always know you.

(The angels are spirits of God, without bodies;  
may they guard us even as we call -  
I wish I could be more conscious of their presence.)

## **September 30**

(Job 9:1-12,14-16; Ps.88:3,10-15; Lk.9:57-62)

Let me not look back, O Lord.  
Let me trust in your majesty  
    and in your providence,  
    and give myself over to your power.

Happy have I been with my friend,  
    but a difficulty arises...  
Is my hand to the plow or not?  
If so, there should be no doubt;  
all difficulties should be entrusted to God.

**October 1** (Job 19:21-27; Ps.27:7-9,13-14; Lk.10:1-12)

This should be the attitude of all Christians, bringing peace and the telling in all their lives of the reign of God in our midst. We are all sent to live our lives in such a way. (Appropriately, this is the feast day of St. Therese of Lisieux - her "little way" of apostleship is so relevant for all.)

I would I could live my life trusting and witnessing to Christ. But as it is I long for His presence in a life less than perfect. (I know the justice of the Lord is cleansing though.)

Let me walk with you, Lord;  
let me believe in you.  
Let me know you are with me  
and bring your peace wherever I go.

**October 2** (Ex.23:20-23; Ps.91:1-6,10-11; Mt.18:1-5,10)

Guardian Angels.

Watch over me, and all my ways.

(I do so need their protection.  
In this world so full of sadness,  
if we humble ourselves,  
He may bless our lives.

The angels watch over my parents  
and get them here safely  
in their drive.)

## October 3

(Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-16; Ps.119:66,71,75,91,125,130,135;  
Lk.10:17-24)

"The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his earlier ones," not only in the wealth of goods provided him, but especially in the confidence and serenity that he had come through the fire and now nothing of this world could touch him - he could, in fact, rejoice in a substantial way, like the apostles, that his name was "inscribed in heaven."

Today we needed someone with the power to cast out demons, but none was found. A young woman was clearly out of her mind. For the first time, I found someone whom I could neither talk to or control (nor could the priest or the Protestant preacher or anyone else) - we could but leave her be. Where has this power gone? (Now drugs are prescribed.)

O Lord, let your blessings be upon me  
and my family and friends...  
particularly the special blessing of heaven.  
(And let your power go forth.)

## October 4

(Hb.1:2-3,2:2-4; Ps.95:1-2,6-9; 2Tm.1:6-8,13-14;  
Lk.17:5-10)

When we serve the Lord, we know what faith is.  
In this is suffering, in this laying down of our  
lives, working for Him - faith in Him is at our core.  
And we are not anxious in waiting, for His wisdom  
fills us, the Holy Spirit is with us.

Today at my friend's church the pastor speaks of  
the glory of preaching as the center of the church.  
Earlier I had the blessing of hearing our new priest  
at Sunday Mass for the first time. (He spoke powerfully  
on abortion.) Ironically, hearing our priest fan the  
fire in his preaching made me see how rare this grace  
is in our church...

And I suffer with Christ. For I know deeply His sadness  
at the separation of His people. So what was once a  
kind of privileged joy for me (attending both churches  
and benefiting from the two) is now a source of deep  
pain. For I bear the rift of separation in my heart  
and sense the profound grief the Lord must know.

(The cross is still most appropriate for us all.)

Come, Holy Spirit;  
only you can bless your servants  
and make them true,  
and make them one -  
and make them whole in you.

**October 5** (Gal.1:6-12; Ps.111:1-2,5,7-10; Lk.10:25-37)

From eternity His command of love stands firm -  
this is His law; this is His gospel.

Love one another. Have compassion for one another.  
Remain with Him and you will never be alone.

Teach me, Lord, to love your command to love.

(In our cultural diversity class we speak of the  
different races and racism - all must be loved.

And today my parents meet my friend  
(who is of another race)

And is she my love?)

**October 6** (Gal.1:13-24; Ps.139:1-3,13-15,24; Lk.10:38-42)

I find myself of late busy night and day with the tasks I've taken on: school and work and home and church and friend... I regularly say my prayers without depth, simply going through them, and this with presumed impunity. I have not time to breathe, to sit with God, to speak His Name. This should not be - I must always maintain His peace.

Lord, may I not neglect the time  
to open my heart to you  
and allow you to scrutinize my being -  
to wonder at this life you have given me.



**October 7** (Gal.4:4-7; Lk.1:46-55; Lk.1:26-38)

(Special readings for this Marian feast day -  
Our Lady of the Rosary.)

We shall become sons of God by the coming of the Son of God into our midst. It is He, the Son, who makes us sons of the Father. As His sons and daughters, let us do His will.

Today I am reminded of the importance of practices I have been neglecting - saying my breviary on time, and coming to Mass early to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. (Of course, my rosary could be better said as well.)

Make us as your sons, O Lord.  
Let me not neglect my duties.  
In prayer let me remain.

**October 8** (Gal.3:1-5; Lk.1:69-75; Lk.11:5-13)

Do you ask for the Holy Spirit?  
Do you seek the cross?  
Do you knock upon the door which leads to life?

I have been begging the Lord to act in my life,  
for His hand to be upon me, for the Spirit  
of Truth to take control.

I do believe He hears me, and I am able at times to take  
refuge in Him - but how consistent do I remain in my  
pleas? How complete is my prayer?

I beg you, Lord, to hear my prayer  
for my friend and our situation.  
Please let only your will be done.

## October 9

(Gal.3:7-14; Ps.111:1-6; Lk.11:15-26)

As we are cleansed, we cannot be empty; we must be filled with faith in Christ. The Lord's power is greater than any other; depend on Him to cure your ills.

Lord, I would I could be a man of faith,  
following in your way,  
filled with your Spirit.

Why do I stray?  
Let thy will be done.

## **October 10**

(Gal.3:22-29; Ps.105:2-8; Lk.11:27-28)

She who serves Him constantly truly keeps the word of the Lord; it is she who has so obediently brought the promise to fulfillment by giving birth to Jesus. Would we were all so humble in doing His will.

Remember your covenant in my life, O Lord;  
let it be fulfilled in me.  
A child of your promise let us all be.

## October 11

(2Kgs.5:14-17; Ps.98:1-4; 2Tm.2:8-13;  
Lk.17:11-19)

Foreigners to the house of God are cured and give thanks to the Lord, becoming one with the Lord in faith. For His saving power we should praise Him, whatever chains we must wear for His sake.

Pastor at friend's church again speaks forcefully of the centrality of preaching (even as our new priest continues to preach the Word with power). A word comes to me for him: you know what you have and it is a great gift; but do you have the poverty of spirit (a reference to his preaching) to know what you lack (this being communion with the Church, specifically, the Body and Blood of Christ - references to food throughout his sermon)? In chains, on the verge of tears, I speak this to him.

Lord, I thank you for the gifts you give me  
in any and all sources -  
I pray all may know the fullness of your grace.

## October 12

(Gal.4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1; Ps.113:1-7;  
Lk.11:29-32)

Are we children of the promise?  
Are we free and destined for glory?  
Are you, my brother?  
Am I?

Do we recognize the sign Christ is for us all?  
Or will we seek forever in vain  
for that which is before our eyes?

What more do we need?  
In His cross I take refuge.

Let us not fall short, O Lord.  
Let us not fail to appreciate the graces given us  
through our Mother, the Church.  
May we dwell in Jerusalem with you.

## October 13

(Gal.5:1-6; Ps.119:41,43-45,47-48; Lk.11:37-41)

The works of the law are useless; only faith in Christ brings salvation. What is inside your cup?

Christ's point is not to condemn outward washing, but to show that that cleansing must be applied inwardly - the new covenant supplants the old. The old was good, but the new is better - and necessary for fulfillment of the law.

May the word of truth be always in my mouth,  
O Lord,  
and may your love always shine through me.

## **October 14**

(Gal.5:18-25; Ps.1:1-4,6,Jn.8:12; Lk.11:42-46)

How empty am I?  
How great a sinner?

I wish I knew the Spirit's lead that I might follow  
it, crucifying my passions and desires. But too often  
excuses enter in to confuse my dim mind and lead me  
into impurity. Is it that resolution comes gradually?  
Is it true that weakness must somehow be accepted?  
Or am I as great a sinner as I may seem?

I would not walk in the way of sinners.  
I want no evil in my life.

Take all sin from me, dear Lord.  
In your radiant light purify my darkened heart.



## October 15

(Eph.1:1,3-10; Ps.98:1-6; Lk.11:47-54)

The Pharisees prove the Lord's words true by now turning to persecute Jesus.

But in that blood are we redeemed; in His holy sacrifice we are made whole. Though they are evil in their actions - and will find punishment for such - yet the Lord brings grace through them.

Let us praise Him that He forgives our sins,  
and calls us "to be holy and blameless in His sight."

Priest says this morning that though members of the Church have been sinful at times (mentions St. Therese's days), yet the Lord brings forth fruit in His Church. Then this evening I speak with a former Catholic, now of another denomination, and conclude that things will turn again. The persecution and sin upon the Church will be removed by the hand of God.

O Lord, make us true to you.  
Heal your Church,  
that all things might be accomplished in you.

## October 16

(Eph.1:11-14; Ps.33:1-2,4-5,12-13; Lk.12:1-7)

All things are open in His sight;  
the eyes of the Lord look upon all things  
and their light reveals their essence.  
Let us be in His presence forever.

On this day I read of the Pope's new encyclical on "Faith and Reason." I find his ideas - and I say this with no pride - remarkably consonant with those I have espoused, as recently as last week: the mind and the soul must work together or not at all. The light of philosophy will bring to bear the truth of religion. Yes, it is so.

Our being sealed with the Holy Spirit is quite real,  
as the blood which flows through Christ's veins  
and which we (the Pope and I and so many others)  
drink each day.

I love you, Lord.  
Let my love shine true  
and be realized in this flesh and bone.

## October 17

(Eph.1:15-23; Ps.8:2-7; Lk.12:8-2.2)

On this night the World Series begins, I sit and wonder what it is my "innermost vision" would lead me to. During the day I pray in the presence of music and remember my art. Also, I sit in the presence of my love and consider the call of marriage. And in the presence of the Lord I cry out to Him for the forgiveness of my sin, and though I know it is overwhelming, I also know His power is greater - and His salvation glory is near to me.

How shall it all work out, O Lord?  
May I but pray that you will remain with me  
along the way.

## October 18

(Ex.17:8-13; Ps.121:1-8; 2Tm.3:14-4:2;  
Lk.18:1-8)

Pray always. Work constantly in the Spirit of God and He will bless your cause, and salvation shall be yours.

The preaching continues, and in both churches the role of the Christian in the world (and against the world) is alluded to. Yet it seems to me our greatest call is to prayer, and to love our enemies. We must accept and cherish persecutions as a following of Christ - thus we know we are Christians.

If the Catholic Church is the most abused, it is confirmation that it is of Christ and not of any man.

(Priest rails against anti-Christian/Catholic play, but doesn't mention praying for the perpetrators. I am worried that a teacher will not let me into the lab to type while her class is in session, but I go humbly and she is acquiescent.)

Dear Lord, hear my prayer:  
lead me through this world to heaven.

## October 19

(Eph.2:1-10; Ps.100:2-5; Lk.12:13-21)

(I'm afraid lectionary was set one week ahead, so we read next Monday's Scripture. It was about lewd conduct and suggestive speech, which seemed very appropriate in its needing to be rooted out of me.)

There is nothing we can do to earn salvation; with all the trouble in the world we couldn't add a cubit to our height. What are we and our possessions worth really? In reality, we have nothing; all is of God.

Lord, what can I say of my friend?  
She is yours; I place her in your hands.

## October 20

(Eph.2:12-22; Ps.85:9-14; Lk.12:35-38)

We must be wide awake at all times, waiting for Jesus who is always present...

Yes, even the pagans (like myself, my culture) now may enter into His salvation. Though the body and the spirit were once set apart from one another, now the body has been redeemed and made holy by Christ's coming in the flesh.

Let us enter in and give praise to Him.

(Today is the feast of St. Paul of the Cross,  
our church's patron, here in America.  
May we stand always in the Lord's Church.)

O Lord, maintain your love in my heart,  
that I might be always ready for your coming.

## October 21

(Eph.3:2-12; Is.12:2-6; Lk.12:39-48)

And to whom has more been entrusted than Peter, the rock of the Church. The greatest weight in this world indeed rests upon the Pope's shoulders.

Today the fact of evil popes arises - those who began "to abuse the housemen and servant girls, to eat and drink and get drunk." The severe beating they received we can only imagine. But we know the Church and the station of the pope remain.

I know to maintain my own place in the Lord's promised salvation I need to remain in prayer - this is our unailable guard.

Be with me, Lord,  
that my house may be well-guarded  
and your will be accomplished  
in my life.

(Today, indeed, I think I see evil spirits  
looking to break into my heart.)

## October 22

(Eph.3:14-21; Ps.33:1-2,4-5,11-12,18-19;  
Lk.12:49-53)

We in the family of God are indeed divided from those who hold to this world and its ways. Whomever is outside His domicile will not be for us, and so the violence of which Christ speaks.

We wish this not. We desire not the hatred and disdain of our fellow human beings. Charity remains "the root and foundation" of our lives even so. (We must turn the other cheek and love our enemies.) But it is so that there will be those, even close to home, who will despise us.

But glory in His presence we must always. In faith we must allow Him to work in our lives. And so we will attain the blessing of heaven Christ's "baptism" provides.

Help us to join in your sacrifice and suffering, Lord,  
that we might find the gifts of your glory.



## October 23

(Eph.4:1-6; Ps.24:1-6; Lk.12:54-59)

Rather than paying "the last penny" for our sins in Purgatory, let us make peace with the Lord here along the way. Let us indeed "live a life worthy of the calling" we have received, and there will be no fear of judgment.

Today I go to Confession, trying to make peace with the Lord and live according to His word. Today it works and the Lord indicates reward. One day at a time now in the one Lord.

Lord of all, Spirit of the Living God,  
be ever in my life here,  
that all might be well in the kingdom.

(Be not like horse or mule, needing bridle and bit else it will not obey; freely walk the straight path with the Lord, according to your call as a Christian man.)

## October 24

(Eph.4:7-16; Ps.122:1-5; Lk.13:1-9)

Do I bear fruit in Christ?  
Am I finding my place in His house?

What is it you would have me do, Lord?

(Today, saying rosary during Holy Hour, I believe I hear from the Blessed Mother. As I pray I hear that "soon" abortion will be ended - though "soon" may mean the coming of the kingdom. I hear that the trials of full-time school while working are as a penance for my previously wasted time during college. And I further lose doubts about the efficacy of the rosary.)

## October 25

(Sir.35:12-14,16-18; Ps.34:2-3,7,17-19,23;  
2Tm.4:6-8,16-18; Lk.18:9-14)

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.  
Those who humble themselves are blessed by God.  
The prayer of a just man pierces the heavens,  
even when all ears on earth are deaf.

Each day is new in the Lord,  
and I begin to pray in faith -  
calling upon the Spirit, believing in His power.

The prayer of the faithful shall be heard:  
His Day shall come.

Lord, be merciful to me, a blind man;  
open my eyes to see your glory,  
calm my heart to trust in you.

(The busyness of my days shows anxiety  
and lack of trust in Him.  
I must find the oasis of peace in Christ.)

## October 26

(Eph.4:32-5:8; Ps.1:1-4,6,Eph.5:1; Lk.13:10-17)

We must walk in holiness before the Lord.

I read *Four Corners off the Universe* in a class tonight -  
O that we could be so whole.

It will be one day in the Lord;  
His hand shall touch this earth and heal it.

(I wish I could heal my friend's back and other pain.)

Come, Holy Spirit;  
this year is set apart for you.

- What shall happen in the year 2000?
- How shall we celebrate the Jubilee?
- What grace shall be known by man?
- How shall it rescue him from darkness?

## October 27

(Eph.5:21-33; Ps.128:1-5; Lk.13:18-21)

May the leaven of the Lord be in my soul,  
that my prayer might rise unto heaven.  
With the Lord as our food,  
we shall always be sustained.

And He will bless all marriages;  
if I could love her like myself,  
then all would be well.

Yes, the woman is of the man.  
(‘Man’ is in ‘woman’, someone says.)  
And I hold her to myself as if to heal her,  
praying the Lord’s blessing upon her...

I pray our tree shall grow.

Lord, wash away all faults;  
purify us in your bath,  
and bring us unto heaven.

(Today I think to say the rosary each day for my friend.)

## October 28

(Eph.2:19-22; Ps.19:2-5; Lk.6:12-16)

Sts. Simon and Jude, and so we celebrate apostleship.

Little is known of these two apostles of Christ, and this might seem odd. But not all of us are famous for our works - many toil in anonymity. Perhaps they are there for us.

I don't know. I wonder lately if what I am doing is in the Lord's will. Going to graduate school and working so hard, running day and night and having little time for reflection - have I gotten away from my call? I have little time to think; it seems I am on a treadmill of doing. I seem to be losing control of myself, in a sense, and for the first time find myself concerned for my health.

Is what I do part of the structure of Christ?

O Lord, please let my life be in your hands.  
Bring the peace of your presence into my days,  
that I might not be blind to your will.

## October 29

(Eph.6:10-20; Ps.144:1-2,9-10; Lk.13:31-35)

I wondered why I should question so what clothes to wear this morning. Then I realized it was to direct my attention to the armor of God, my true outfit.

I have not mastered myself; I cannot say that. In fact, I am far from that. But, taking the armor of the Lord and praying in the Spirit, I find myself conquering temptations.

And may what I must do be accomplished in His name.

Dear Lord, let your guard always be with me,  
until the end of time.

(Construction work has been going on in the two principal places in my life for the past several months. I pray this rebuilding at my church and the school symbolize the work being done within me.)

## October 30

(Phil.1:1-11; Ps.111:1-6; Lk.14:1-6)

What blessings are bestowed upon the Philippians.  
Would I were so deserving of these words.

Great indeed are the works of the Lord -  
and wonderful to be one.  
May all be well in Him.

(The Lord continues to bless my desire for Him;  
and it has taken until the end of this month  
of the rosary,  
but I believe I have again found the grace  
to say a full rosary each day.)

Lord, heal all by your presence...  
Be present to me, dear Lord,  
and to all your children.



## October 31

(Phil.1:18-26; Ps.42:2-3,5; Lk.2.4:1,7-11)

Perhaps I shall live a little longer,  
though the trials, as of this day, continue.

The time to be with Him will come soon enough;  
do not exalt yourself to His table,  
but work day to day on making Jesus real  
in your life.

I touch the reality of Jesus this day;  
this is His great humility -  
that He is here.

Let me sit at some corner of the table, O Lord;  
let me but be somewhere in your presence,  
and I shall be happy.

**November 1** (Rv.7:2-4,9-14; Ps.24:1-6; 1Jn.3:1-3; Mt.5:1-12)

These blessed are the saints.  
They are pure of heart,  
and they see what men have longed to see.

How innocent is John in his response to the angel:  
"Sir, you should know better than I."  
How without guile are all who are God's children.

May we all be so blessed.  
And may we all be one in Christ, the Lord.

Lord, make us as you are.

(Priest states Catholic teaching explicitly from pulpit today: "We do not worship the saints." But yet do they say we do (and other things) at my friend's Reformed Baptist church - Why is this, Lord?)

## **November 2**

(Dn.12:1-3; Ps.63:2-6,8-9; Rm.6:3-9; Jn.6:37-40)

All we can do is die;  
    this is all that is in our power.  
For it is indeed so that we can do nothing,  
    and in dying to self  
        we recognize our nothingness before God.

May the Lord indeed raise us up on the last day.  
May our longing be fulfilled in Him.  
May we shine like stars on the day of distress.  
May we die with Him  
    that we might rise with Him in glory.

Lord, accept my dying before you;  
    in this life accept my prayer.

## **November 3**

(Phil.2:5-11; Ps.22:26-32; Lk.14:15-24)

Come when He calls.

Be ever ready to partake of bread with the Lord.

Let nothing keep you from His table.

Today I am blessed, as my friend enters a hospital chapel with me and stands with me before the tabernacle as I pray. (He who is so humble is humble still in this bread we eat.) Though nothing dramatic occurs, the opportunity to pray (even as poorly as I do) is cause enough for rejoicing, and at least she is not so antagonistic.

Jesus, touch her,

and bring us both to your table.

## **November 4**

(Phil.2:12-18; Ps.27:1,4,13-14; Lk.14:25-33)

May the Lord turn to us and teach us to lay down our lives, to pour ourselves out as a libation; with courage let us take refuge in His name.

I have seldom been afraid to die for the Lord; at times I have wished it. But am I truly ready? I think that if the Lord reached down and touched my life, I would simply and easily turn myself over to Him - but am I anxious to work out my salvation?

Let us be more conscientious, brothers and sisters,  
and more courageous.

Help me, Lord, to give up all I have,  
to think of nothing but you -  
and to do.

## **November 5**

(Phil.3:3-8; Ps.105:2-7; Lk.15:1-10)

I am that one repentant sinner.  
And in my repentance the Lord blesses me  
with knowledge of my sin and its source.

Yes, I do seem resolute at times, but somehow I am  
broken down, I am weakened - I lose my resolution in  
forgetfulness. In a word, my sin is one of an unbridled  
tongue; and the Lord lets me know that if I do not  
control my tongue, I shall not join His humble saints  
in heaven.

The manner in which I dissemble is as follows: my prayer  
loses its fervor, its concentration - or it is omitted  
entirely during the course of the day. (It is of  
particular importance, I believe, to say my Hours at  
the appropriate times - and not all at night and in the  
morning.) With this, strength is lost and foolishness  
follows. My tongue is loosened for other purposes, and  
by its lead, soon I find myself in sin. It is true what  
James says - the tongue is a tiny member, but it is the  
rudder that steers the ship. Give your tongue to God  
and remain in His word, and He will take the lust and  
pride and foolishness from you. (Must especially  
remember the Name of God - YHWH - which I actually  
mention in class tonight.)

Dear Lord, in your Word let me remain.  
Grant me thy wisdom and grace.

## **November 6**

(Phil.3:17-4:1; Ps.122:1-5; Lk.16:1-8)

I see the sun shining upon the earth today -  
it shines everywhere, covering the earth  
with its light.

O Lord, let us be your children of light;  
let us use the grace you give us  
here on this earth  
and so come to you in heaven.

## **November 7**

(Phil.4:10-19; Ps.112:1-2,5-6,8-9; Lk.16:9-15)

Money means nothing

but that you use all you have toward heaven.

Employ well the gifts God gives you.

This day is spent helping my friend and her mother move and unmove from the place they had hurriedly chosen. Greater care must be taken as to how we situate ourselves. (May the Lord bless their situation.)

And I have resolved to send a special gift to Paragua Santa Ana in Honduras to help relieve the effects of the terrible catastrophe there.

God, you are all important.

Take all our lives and

let us live in you

now

and unto heaven.



## **November 8**

(2Mac.7:1-2,9-14; Ps.17:1,5-6,8,15;  
2Thes.2:16-3:5; Lk.20:27-38)

There shall be resurrection from the dead.  
On that day all shall rise again.  
This is our hope; this is our faith.  
(And we pray He might invite us to His table.)

The horror of the catastrophe in Honduras and Nicaragua was much on my mind as I shed tears today - but I believe the preaching that we must have faith, that God is in control... and I pray and see that these shall rise again.

May we become as angels in your presence  
on that Day, dear Lord.  
May our lives become worthy of being called  
by your Name.

(Let us have no fear but of the Lord.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.)

## **November 9**

(Rv.21:1-5; Ps.84:3-6,8,11; Pt.2:4-9;  
Jn.4:19-24)

Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church, which is the New Jerusalem come from heaven, made so by the power of the Holy Spirit and given place through the seat of Peter.

On this day we celebrate the feast of St. John Lateran Church, we know that true worship is that of the Spirit; but we also know how the Spirit works through the Church and is indeed His Bride.

My bride I seek, and wonder what shall be.

Lord, take this sinful, weak frame  
and build upon it thy temple -  
anoint my flesh with your blessing,  
and let it remain with me.

## **November 10**

(Tit.2:1-8,11-14; Ps.37:3-4,18,23,27,29,39;  
Lk.17:7-10)

It is our duty to be righteous and walk temperately  
in the Lord. May our steps be firm and our hearts  
pure, then we might sup with Him truly.

I manage a measure of temperance today,  
though it may have been made by exhaustion.

Lord, let us serve you always in this world,  
and our brothers and sisters.  
May our conduct be fitting sons of God.

**November 11** (Tit.3:1-7; Ps.23:1-6; Lk.17;11-19)

It is by the grace of God that we are healed, that we are saved; therefore, we should be in no way judgmental of others but live peaceful lives in the arms of our God.

Let us pray for the government,  
that we might live in peace.

Dear Lord, I thank you,  
and I beg my continued conversion.

(The Lord's providence should be our trust.)

## **November 12**

(Phlm.1:7-20; Ps.146:7-10; Lk.17:20-25)

How adroitly Paul exhorts Philemon to a Christian act of forgiveness, looking to thus make him "useful."

So must we all be useful to the Lord on this earth as long as it shall last - setting captives free, giving sight to the blind, feeding the hungry... until He comes.

But He is indeed already here. The kingdom is in our midst. And in doing His will we find it.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
and keep me from sin  
until I shall rest with thee again.

Accept this poor thief back into your presence.

## **November 13**

(2Jn.4-9; Ps.119:1-2,10-11,17-18; Lk.17:26-37)

The Lord humbles me and reveals to me my lack of love for others. I turn to others with compassion at the time for the sign of peace and realize how long it has been since I had such love in my heart. (How terrible it is to be separate from this love, from one's own heart, from Christ - and how beautiful to know it... we must bleed inside tenderly for one another.)

And through the day I try to show compassion and listen to others rather than acting like a machine and merely using others functionally: it is so important to remember that we are no better than others, and it is so freeing (for it is truth)

O Lord, let me not be found in the deadness  
of this flesh,  
but in the light of life in you.

(And the smile of a child I see today;  
and from fear I am released, by love.)

**November 14** (3Jn.5-8; Ps.112:1-6; Lk.18:1-8)

This is the first day in over two months  
that I didn't see my friend, and I miss her, deeply.

Swiftly answer my prayer, Lord.  
(May there be room for me in her heart.)

## **November 15**

(Mal.3:19-20; Ps.98:5-9; 2Thes.3:7-12;  
Lk.21 :5-19)

We must do the Lord's work until the day He comes.

As we approach the end of the Church year, we hear of readings addressing the end times. Perhaps most important is to never go astray or be anxious. Maintain the faith of the fathers. Honor thy father and mother, the saints who have maintained the faith since the earliest days, preserving it unto this day. Remain steadfast in the Word.

Into your kingdom let us come, O Lord;  
our wills make thine own.

(We must give ourselves to Him.)



## **November 16**

(Rv.1:1-4,2:1-5; Ps.1:1-4,6,Rv.2:7;

Lk.18:35-43)

Oh that my early love might be resurrected within me!  
(This is my prayer.)

How many different ways there are which Jesus heals...  
In what way shall He heal me?

Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me.  
I know not what I do;  
    open my eyes  
    and let me follow you.

(Last night I had a dream of art -  
    found object, a guitar, in the sculpture studio  
    in the form of Christ on the cross -  
    and today conversation about art.)

## **November 17**

(Rv.3:1-6,14-22; Ps.15:2-5,Rv.3:21;

Lk.19:1-10)

"Whoever is dear to me I reprove and chastise."

Then perhaps the Lord loves me very much,  
for I feel most chastised this day.

But I bear up not well under the weight of persecution.  
Early in the day I express a willingness, in prayer, to  
suffer trials and tribulations which began even yesterday  
from my friend's telling me she cannot love me because  
of my Catholicism. I presume that I can be strong, but  
I am most weak and become unable to function. Anger,  
too, enters in and I become quite lost. And I wonder  
if I am in the right place at all.

Lord, I have not possessions to give;  
all I have to give you are my burdens.  
May your heavenly presence take them.

## **November 18**

(Acts 28:11-16,30-31; Ps.98:1-6; Mt.14:22-33)

How strong the wind is, and how weak I am.  
But the Lord strengthens me.

This morning I consider not going to work; upset as I am regarding my friend's turning from me, I was greatly unable to rest. But I went, and from my first meeting the Lord strengthened me in the performance of my duty and even provided opportunity to make amends for yesterday's poor work. Mount Zion is immovable (psalm I read - 125 - as penance this morning), and we must be set on solid rock with the Lord.

Yet the pain is deep within me and the tears not far below the surface. Upon returning home late tonight I cry in the shower for the Lord's defense of my way and of His Church.

Hell shall not prevail against the gates of the Church.  
No wind can remove this rock.

Bless your Church, O Lord;  
leave it not long without you.  
Come now in strength, dear God.

## **November 19**

(Rv.5:1-10; Ps.149:1-6,9,Rv.5:10; Lk.9:41-44)

He is worthy!

Lord, make me not blind  
to the time of my visitation,  
for the time is upon us.

(In heaven now the Lord reigns  
and sees all things -  
even now He is coming to us;  
His Word is being revealed.)

## **November 20**

(Rv.10:8-11; Ps.119:14,24,72,103,111,131;  
Lk.19:45-48)

His words are sweet indeed,  
but oh the cross that must be borne.

Many come seeking only the sweetness of living in  
the light of the Lord - this is to hang upon His words;  
this is to desire prophecy. But it must not be forgotten  
the persecution the prophet must suffer, and so His  
followers.

Let us seek Him always, yes, brothers;  
but let us also live His way.

(Today my friend is in the womanly way -  
a cross to be borne, indeed.  
But I am able to give her comfort,  
and so both of us are blessed.)

Lord, give me your words always,  
and give me strength in bearing their weight.

## **November 21**

(Zec.2:14-17; Lk.1:46-55; Mt.12:46-50)

Indeed, who is more mother to Jesus  
than His Blessed Mother?

I have been thinking of Mary, especially her statement that all generations would call her blessed. Think about that (especially those who question the honor given her). Can you imagine anyone else (except Jesus, of course) saying this? It would be blasphemy, a sign of egregious pride. Then why is it she is able to say it of herself? It is because she is truly humble, because she follows the path of self-sacrifice marked out by the Lord, and is one with Him so completely in this way that she is able to say in the Spirit, "All ages to come shall call me blessed." There is none of us more humble, and so there is none of us more exalted. This is the Lord's will.

Though none can equal your glory found  
in your great humility, O Lamb of God,  
we know your mother is mother to you -  
may we join her in your family.

**November 22**

(2Sm.5:1-3; Ps.122:1-5; Col.1:12-20;  
Lk.23:35-43)

There is our King, broken and hung on a cross!  
Where else shall we find such love?

Forgive me, Lord, as I hang upon the cross  
for my sins.  
Please bring me into your kingdom,  
though I do not deserve it.

(Afflicted with sickness this day.)

## November 23

(Rv.14:1-5; Ps.24:1-6; Lk.21:1-4)

To be so pure as to follow the Lord wherever He goes...  
To give all we have to live on to the Lord...  
To seek Him alone,  
    keeping Him ever first  
        in our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies...

How do we find these things,  
    and what keeps us from attaining them?

What absolute joy it would be to live so.

Lord, I want to die with you, for you -  
    I want to live with you forever.

(The death of parents of a friend and a teacher,  
    and considering my own mortality...  
    let us never lose hope in the Lord.)



## **November 24**

(Rv.14:14-19; Ps.96:10-13; Lk.21:5-11)

It is the final week of the Church year and this approaching end has been clear in the readings for a couple of weeks... but especially so now.

And the Blessed Mother's message this month carries with it, I believe, a certain end sense in her call to return to former conviction.

"But the end does not follow immediately."  
We must be always ready.

(I don't really see how anyone calling himself "Christian" and reading the Bible to any extent - reading, for instance, today's gospel - could be taken in by end-of-the-world prophecies and other cultist behaviors.)

We are in a sense born for death (as my friend's mother states), but more so we are born for life... and Advent is upon us, too, remember.

Dear Lord, prepare our hearts for your coming  
and our going.

## **November 25**

(Rv.2.5:1-4; Ps.98:1-3,7-9; Lk.21:12-19)

Today has been one of the most difficult days I have spent in recent memory, not simply because I had a relapse of my illness and was repeatedly exhorted to go to the nurse because of my pale complexion - I was very weak - but because today I did barely pray. This inspiration and closeness to the Lord was lacking throughout the day. I have foregone the Hours and other prayers when home sick in bed, but today I accomplished my other duties in society, but not these. This is most sad.

But I did find myself breaking into song praising God on several occasions, so there is some hope for the day.

Lord, make me well that I might suffer for you alone  
(and praise your name consistently).

## **November 26**

(Is.12:1-6; song; 1Cor.11:23-26; Lk.17:11-19)

We have much to give thanks for, but what more than His Church, His people, and especially the gift of Himself in the Eucharist - our true food.

I am filled this day at bilingual Mass for all our community with the beautiful and true sense that this is my family - the Church is the true Christian's family - and so this is the greatest Thanksgiving feast one could imagine. Here are the priests, the people, the Eucharist - Jesus is in all these elements of the Mass. This is my place, my home. Here my joy is complete. And the Lord graces me with being the last to leave.

Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts,  
but these especially.  
Bring me back to thee.

I would give greatest thanks  
if I could share in your will,  
if I could give you my life.

## **November 27**

(Rv.20:1-4,11-21:2; Ps.84:3-6,8,Rv.21:3;  
Lk.21:29-33)

I think of a favorite saying of my father, "This too shall pass," as I read of one intellectual's support for infanticide. Certainly, these thoughts and those who hold them will be the first to flee from the Lord's presence. (So much in today's society borders on the insane, but all this horror shall indeed pass away.)

And I wish I could go from strength to strength in the Lord, but instead I seem to go from weakness to weakness (continuing sickly today).

But even so, today is a wonderfully special day, as I spend it in New York at the Metropolitan Art Museum with my friend - looking at things that indeed shall pass (though their beauty, and our love, I pray, shall not - for these are of the Lord).

O Lord, bless the eternal in your Name  
and cast the passing away.  
Come to us in strength.

## **November 28**

(Rv.22:1-7; Ps.95:1-7,Rv.21:20; Lk.21:34-36)

On this the final day of the Church year, we are given the reassurance and the warning that the Lord is coming soon for us. It shall not be long; we must be ready.

And today there is a Mass for my humble friend and brother who died earlier this year, as if to emphasize the end upon us.

As another year of these days comes to a close and I finish this book, I struggle to look forward to the new year, that dedicated to the Father, and the season wherein we welcome Christ into our lives.

Holy Spirit, take the sadness that comes  
at the close of day  
and turn it to joy in God's presence.

(I pray our prayers this year have served  
to draw upon the power of the Spirit  
to heal and renew the face of this earth.)