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July 2009

WORDS FROM ST. JULIE:

You will often be able to read in this great book of nature. What grandeur there is to be discovered in it! But only those souls can find it who have the happiness of seeing God everywhere. –Amiens, July 15, 1795

WHERE ARE WE ON THE JOURNEY?

In our culture July holds images of fireworks, vacation, picnics, **slow time**. The Church calendar takes a slightly different view. The readings for this month root us in **ordinary time**. They focus on two real parts of human experience: our need to be healed and our need to be cared for. As we listen to God's word, be attentive to the theme of God's healing presence and the theme of "shepherding". The second can be harder for us to connect to: a shepherd lovingly cares for the flock, guards it, guides it, and makes sure it has what it needs to thrive. God's presence seeks to be the shepherd in our lives. Take the opportunity to let the readings of this month surround you with God's ordinary presence and God's healing, caring, guarding, guiding, providing qualities. Let yourself sink deeply into that presence and allow that presence to transform you:

July 5, 2009

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

([Ez](#)
[2:2-5](#); [Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4](#); [2 Cor 12:7-10](#); [Mk 6:1-6](#))

July 12, 2009

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

([Am 7:12-15](#); [Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14](#); [Eph 1:3-14](#) or [Eph 1:3-10](#); [Mk 6:7-13](#))

July 19, 2009

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

([Jer](#)
[23:1-6](#); [Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6](#); [Eph 2:13-18](#); [Mk 6:30-34](#))

July 26, 2009

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

([2 Kgs 4:42-44](#); [Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18](#); [Eph 4:1-6](#); [Jn 6:1-15](#))

Continued...

WHERE AM I ON THE JOURNEY?

Read the passages again. In prayer, reflect on the following questions:

1. I reflect on [2 Cor 12:7-10](#). How do I experience having “a thorn in the flesh”? Do I allow that thorn to draw me closer to God, or do I allow it to be a barrier between myself and God? I ask the grace to befriend my thorn!
2. I pray [Mk 6:1-6](#) asking the Holy Spirit to guide my thoughts and reflections. What surfaces within me as I pray this passage? What light is shed on how I do or do not recognize Christ’s presence in my life? I talk to God about it.
3. I take time to pray [Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14](#). What do I hear when I “listen” for the Word of God? Anything? Or do I have expectations that out shout what God may be trying to tell me?
4. I re-read [Eph 1:3-14](#). How often do I feel like I’ve been given “every spiritual blessing in the heavens”? What blessings do I KNOW I’ve received? I give thanks to God for those blessings, and ask the grace to get in touch with the other blessings God is trying to give me.
5. I pray [Mk 6:7-13](#). Who are the people God “sends” into my life to heal, to illumine God’s presence, to proclaim the Good News? I take time in silence to let God bring these people to my awareness. I reflect on how they gift me and thank God for the gift of each individual. I ask God to show me how I am being sent into the lives of those around me.
6. I re-read [Jer 23:1-6](#). I pray for all those called to shepherd.
7. I pray [Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6](#): What does God say to me through this passage? How am I moved to respond?
8. I pray [Mk 6:30-34](#), asking God to show me a time when I was so excited about doing something I didn’t take time to eat. I spend time with the memory. What light does that experience shed on this passage? I read the passage again, being attentive for what new illumination God may show me.
9. I take time to pray [Jn 6:1-15](#) asking the Holy Spirit to guide me in my reflections on the story. What do I see and hear? What catches my heart’s attention? I stay there and let God speak to my heart. I thank God for what I see and hear.

A PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Living God, there is a grandeur in the commonplace that I rarely take time to see. Help me to comprehend the glory at my elbows. Amen. (p. 176 *More Prayers for Busy People* by William O’Malley SJ)

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