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## Journey Jottings...



August 2008

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Making known God's goodness

### WORDS FROM ST. JULIE

Now we have set out on this road, let us walk with courage; let us take our way through brambles and thorns. Let us remember that our good Master, our Jesus, leads us-our good Jesus, our loving Savior. --Bordeaux, August 31, 1807.

### WHERE ARE WE ON THE JOURNEY

What's going on in the world around us? Take a moment to think about your experience, the headlines in the news, and the good news you're aware of. During these weeks of Ordinary Time we see Jesus walking on the water and inviting Peter to join him; Jesus argues with the Canaanite woman about whether or not he should heal her daughter and her faith calls forth a generous response; Jesus asks the question: Who do you think I am? and we see Jesus trying to prepare his followers for the reality of the cross. These are powerful readings that can be a lens to explore how we can respond to our baptismal call to discipleship. Through faith all things are possible: what impact can we, a faith-filled community, have on our world? How does our image of Jesus impact our relationships and actions? How do we live lives of meaningful hope in a world filled with challenge, pain, and suffering? How is God reaching out to us through the ordinary stuff of our lives today? How are we called to respond through ordinary actions that, infused with faith, can have extraordinary consequences? Ask for the grace to see God present in the ordinary as you take time with the readings of the Sunday liturgies:

**August 3, 2008**  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Is 55:1-3; Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18;](#)  
[Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21](#)

**August 10, 2008**  
19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

[1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14;](#)  
[Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33](#)

**August 17, 2008**  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;](#)  
[Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28](#)

**August 24, 2008**  
21<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8;](#)  
[Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20](#)

**August 31, 2008**  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9;](#)  
[Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27](#)

### WHERE AM I ON THE JOURNEY?

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

[Is 55:1-3](#)

I let God speak the words of IS 55:1-3 to me. For what am I thirsting? What in me needs to be renewed? I lift these parts of myself up to God and pray with hands open: asking the grace to receive the gift of God's love.

I pray Romans 8:37-39. I let myself be strengthened by God's infinite love. What do I want to say to God?

[Mt 14:13-21](#)

I read MT 14:13-21 imagining myself as one of the Apostles. Which one am I? I listen as Jesus asks me to help feed the crowd. How do I help? What do I see? What do I feel? I turn to my life today: I ask Jesus to show me how I'm being asked to work with him today.

[1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a](#)

I take time to be aware of God's infinite goodness in my life. I give thanks.... I spend time with Elijah in 1KGS 19:9a, 11-13a, noticing how God breaks into Elijah's consciousness. How do I open myself to experience God's love, presence and call in my life?

[Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14;](#)

I pray PS 85:14. What part of the psalm most stirs my heart? I allow myself to stay there: open to what God moves within me.

[Mt 14:22-33](#)

I pray MT 14:22-33, asking the Holy Spirit to guide me into the story: Do I go with Jesus to pray? Am I in the boat? What feelings arise within me? What do I want to say to God?

[Mt 14:22-33](#)

I go back to MT 14:22-33 and take Peter's place in the story. What do I hear Jesus saying to me? How do I respond?

[Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;](#)

I take time with PS 67:2-3, 5-6, 8, allowing it to be a prayer for peace in our world.

[Mt 15:21-28](#)

I spend time with the woman in MT 15:21-28. What do I need from God? Do I keep asking for what I need? How great is my faith?

[Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8;](#)

I read RM 8:26-27. I turn to the Holy Spirit and open my heart....

I pray PS 138:1-3, 6-8 asking God to show me how I experience God's love and presence, how I experience God answering me and strengthening me.

[Rom 11:33-36;](#)

I go back to PS 138 and start quietly repeating the phrase: "your love is eternal". I let the words take me into silence and listen for God's words.

I read RM 11:33-36. Which phrase or word jumps out at me? I hold that word in my heart, asking God to help me hear what it is speaking to me.

[Mt 16:13-20](#)

I listen to Jesus' question in MT 16:13-20. Who do I say Jesus is? I answer Jesus' question and talk with him about my answer.

[Jer 20:7-9](#)

I read Jeremiah 20:7-9. Which of his words speak to my heart? I listen to them and take time to reflect on how I have or am currently living them. I talk to God about what I see in my life and about what I feel. How does God respond?

[Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9;](#)

I pray PS 63:2-9 noticing which words or phrases I'm drawn to sit with and listen to. I take the gift of time to drink them in. I thank God for the gift.

[Mt 16:21-27](#)

I pray MT 16:21-27. To 'deny myself' is to let go of who I think I am today to make room for who, with God's help, I can become tomorrow. I take time to reflect on how I've grown more into myself, into who I'm created to be, over the past couple of years. I thank God for the gift of this growth and ask for the grace to continue to grow into the gift I've been created to be and that God calls me to be.

## A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace: Let the design of your great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows: and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts: through your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

