



Journey Jottings...



September 2008

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Making known God's goodness

WORDS FROM ST. JULIE

"Show with kindness what you think best; use gentleness but also authority, not your own but the authority the good God has given you." —Ghent, September 9, 1809.

WHERE ARE WE ON THE JOURNEY

The readings for the September liturgies hold two huge questions for the Christian community. First: do we really understand the Good News of love and forgiveness that is at the heart of Jesus' teaching? Second: are we willing to live out that message in how we relate to others and the world around us? In other words, how do we incarnate God's incredible love and forgiveness in our attitudes and actions at all levels of our lives as individuals, as local church communities, as the Body of Christ? One look at the headlines in the news shouts of the need our world has for love, forgiveness and healing. As we journey through this month, spend time with the readings from the Sunday liturgies and try to keep in the forefront of your mind the question: *If I really lived these words, how would I change the world for the better?*

September 7, 2008

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Ez 33:7-9](#), [Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9](#), [Rom 13:8-10](#), [Mt 18:15-20](#)

September 14, 2008

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Nm 21:4b-9](#), [Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38](#), [Phil 2:6-11](#), [Jn 3:13-17](#)

September 21, 2008

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Is 55:6-9](#), [Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18](#), [Phil 1:20c-24, 27a](#), [Mt 20:1-16a](#)

September 28, 2008

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Ez 18:25-28](#), [Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14](#), [Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5](#), [Mt 21:28-32](#)

WHERE AM I ON THE JOURNEY?

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

1. I take the words of [Ez 33:7-9](#) to God asking God to show me how I do speak the Word of God to those in need, and to show me new ways I can speak God's Word.
2. I pray [Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9](#). What part of me wants to "sing joyfully" to the Lord? I go back to PS 95. I ask God to show me how I sometimes harden my heart so I don't hear God's voice. I ask God for the grace to listen.
3. I spend time with [Rom 13:8-10](#): who are my neighbors? How do I show love for my neighbors?
4. I go back to [Mt 18:15-20](#) and ask God to show me how I deal with hurts and conflict. I ask God to show me how I can lovingly deal with those who hurt me, and in Christ-like ways deal with conflict.
5. I go back to [Mt 18:15-20](#) again and focus on vs. 19-20. Who are the others who make up the "two or three" I gather with to pray? Where do I find Christian faith community?

6. I pray [Phil 2:6-11](#). I take time to reflect on what it means to be a servant to others. Who do I serve?
7. I reflect on [Phil 2:6-11](#) again. This time I ask God to lift up the words and phrases I need to hear. I let them repeat in my heart, taking me into the quiet where I listen to God's word. I talk to God about what I hear.
8. I spend time with [Jn 3:13-17](#). What do these words mean to me? I let the feelings bubble up within me. I hold them before God and allow myself to simply be in God's presence.
9. I pray [Is 55:6-9](#), taking time to reflect on how I seek the Lord and how I call the Lord. I ask for the grace to be open to God's thoughts and ways. I take time to listen for God's response.
10. I pray [Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18](#), repeating the phrase "The Lord is near to all who call on him" over and over.
11. I read the parable in [Mt 20:1-16a](#), being attentive to feelings and thoughts that surface in me. I talk to God about what surfaces, and ask the grace of a deeper understanding of the parable.
12. I pray [Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14](#), letting the words themselves be my prayer.
13. I spend time with [Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5](#). I ask God to help me answer the question: What do these words mean FOR me?
14. I read [Mt 21:28-32](#). Which "son" am I? I talk to God about this.

A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, fill me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds conceal me. Do not permit me to be parted from you. From the evil foe protect me. At the hour of my death call me. And bid me come to you, to praise you with all your saints forever and ever. Amen.
(*Anima Christi* attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola)

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