



WORDS FROM ST. JULIE

Courage, my dear good sisters, God on whom we place all our reliance will be our strength and our support! --Bordeaux, October 13, 1807.

WHERE ARE WE ON THE JOURNEY

"In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me." (1 PHIL 4:12-13) What meaning can these words of St. Paul have for us in light of events rocking our country and world? How are we being affected by the stories and images we hear and see all around us? We are challenged to experience our connections within the Body of Christ in new and deeper ways. The opportunity is presented to grow in radical trust in God and in one another. As we journey through October, spend time with the readings from the Sunday liturgies and try to hear how the Gospel of Jesus calls us to respond to the signs of our times.

October 5, 2008
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Is 5:1-7](#); [Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20](#); [Phil 4:6-9](#);
[Mt 21:33-43](#)

October 12, 2008
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Is 25:6-10a](#); [Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6](#); [Phil 4:12-14, 19-20](#);
[Mt 22:1-14](#) or [22:1-10](#)

October 19, 2008
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Is 45:1, 4-6](#); [Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10](#); [1 Thes 1:1-5b](#);
[Mt 22:15-21](#)

October 26, 2008
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Ex 22:20-26](#); [Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51](#); [1 Thes 1:5c-10](#);
[Mt 22:34-40](#)

WHERE AM I ON THE JOURNEY?

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

1. I read [IS 5:1-7](#) and take time to reflect on how I may be overlooking the ways that God is present and active in my life.
2. I let the words of [PHIL 4:6-9](#) wash over me. What is causing me anxiety that I need to turn over to God? What have I learned, received, heard, that I need to "keep doing?"
3. I spend time with [MT 21:33-43](#). As I look at my life: what do I want to claim as "mine" even though it is a gift from God? How do I need to acknowledge God's gifts to me?
4. I pray [IS 25:6-10](#). Where do I find the "rich feast" God has prepared for me? Who do I find at that table?
5. I reflect on [PS 23](#). How do I experience myself as shepherded, cared for, protected, and provided for by God?
6. I go back to [PHIL 4:12](#). What resonates with me? I take time to listen: what is the call I hear in this passage?
7. I read the Parable of the Wedding Feast in [MT 22:1-14](#): how does God invite me into the story? What, in the parable, do I need to be attentive to?
8. I read [1 THES 1:1-5](#). Who do I want to thank God for? Who am I called to pray for? Who do I see living lives of conviction? What do their lives teach me?
9. As I reflect on [MT 22:15-21](#) I ask myself: What, in my life, belongs to "Caesar?" What "belongs" to God? What do I desire to give God?
10. I pray [PS 18:2-4](#), being attentive to the words and/or phrases that speak to my heart.
11. I read [1 THES 1:5-10](#). Who acts on my behalf? Who imitates me, looks to me for a role model? How does the word of the Lord "echo forth" from my life?
12. I spend time with [MT 22:34-40](#). I ask God to show me how I do, or do not, live these two commandments.

A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON

My God, I give you this day. I offer you, now, all of the good that I shall do and I promise to accept, for love of you, all of the difficulty that I shall meet. Help me to conduct myself during this day in a manner pleasing to you. Amen. (St. Francis de Sales)

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