

journey jottings



Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Making known God's goodness

[Journey Jottings](#) for November 2008

Reflection Questions for Sunday Liturgies

Posted October 30, 2008 by angelelewissnd@verizon.net

WORDS FROM ST. JULIE

"Tell all, all, that I carry them in my heart while I am walking in the mud in the streets of Ghent! Ah, what a long way I have been walking since my arrival! May it all be for the greater glory of the good God! —Ghent, November 23, 1809

WHERE ARE WE ON THE JOURNEY

The first four Sundays of November bring to an end the current Liturgical Year. As the days grow shorter and the daily news seems filled with darkness, these Sundays offer us the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Christian life. Where do we find hope, strength, courage, companionship and meaning?

We begin a new Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent on November 30, 2008. Advent offers us the opportunity to focus on God's desire to be our hope, our strength, our courage, our source of meaning and companion on the journey. How are we, or are we not, allowing God to BE for us? Let us take the opportunity to give thanks for the gift of God's presence with us, and to look for ways to let God more fully into our lives as individuals and as a faith community.

WHERE AM I ON THE JOURNEY? *In prayer, reflect on the following questions.*

[COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED \(ALL SOULS\)](#) — November 2, 2008

- [WS 3:1-9](#). What word or phrase stands out? I ponder that word or phrase. I talk to God about that word or phrase and ask God for insight.
- [PS 23](#). I choose a phrase from the Psalm and repeat it over and over, letting the words center me in the presence of God. I stay attentive in God's presence and let my heart listen.
- [RM 5:1-11](#). I take the time to ponder the mystery of the love of God as a source of hope in my life.

[DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME](#) — November 9, 2008

- [PS 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9](#). I take time to reflect on where I find refuge and strength in my life. Where do I find refreshment and nourishment for my journey.
- [1COR 3:9C-11, 16-17](#). Do I consider myself holy? What are the foundations of my life? Where in this reading do I find consolation? Where do I find challenge? I talk to God about what surfaces in me as I pray this passage.

[33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME](#) — November 16, 2008

- [MT 25:14-30](#). What are the "talents" God has given me to steward? How responsibly do I use them to bring the world closer to God's dream for creation?

[THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST](#) — November 23, 2008

- [EZ 34:11-12, 15-17 and PS 23](#). How do I experience God's caring for me, God's goodness and love in my life? I take time to savor and give thanks.
- [MT 25:31-46](#). I pray this as an examination of conscience. How do I reach out in service to others? How do I see Christ present, experience Christ in those I serve.

[FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT](#) — November 30, 2008

- [IS 64:7](#). I spend time sinking into the image in IS 64. How do I experience God molding, shaping and stretching me? How do I resist the hands of the Potter? I notice the feelings that surface in me and talk to God about them. I listen for God's response.
- [1 COR 1:3-9](#). I open 1 COR as a treasure chest: taking time to enjoy each rich phrase that touches my heart, listening deeply to God's voice and presence in the worlds. What do I hear?
- [MK 13:33-37](#). I read this passage again, praying from the perspective of hospitality. How hospitable am I toward God, towards others? How do I make space for God in my life, for others to be the gift God has created them to be, for my true self?

A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. Show me your paths and teach me to follow; guide me by your truth and instruct me. O, God, be with me on the journey, for all your ways are beautiful and all your paths lead me to peace. (A prayer based on Psalm 25)

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