

Subject: AND YOU? February 2009)

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February 2009

## ORIENTATION

The readings from **February 22, 2009** help us to look forward to a new season of hope and of repentance. In today's readings the theme is clear: God urges us to stop dwelling on the wonders He has worked in the past. God wants us to see the signs and wonders He is doing right now. And in order to recognize God's action in the world today, we must be renewed! We must change our hearts!

In the gospel, Jesus heals a paralytic and shows what it means to help others and to be helped by others when needed.

**Lent begins on Wednesday, February 25, 2009.** Lent is a time of newness—new resolutions and new beginnings.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK

### **JESUS HEALS A PARALYTIC**

When He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered together around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when



## LENTEN RESOURCES

### **Live Simply**

Newly found website offers practical ideas for change.

[www.livesimply.com.uk](http://www.livesimply.com.uk)

### **Lenten Reflection Series**

Fr. Ed Hayes offers daily reflections for Lent. Subscribe for free at

<http://ncronline3.org/drupal/?q=node/1395/>

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *If you were one of the paralytic's friends and saw the crowds, what would you have done?*
- *Which feeling best describes how would you feel if you were the paralytic when your friends decided to help you "drop in" on Jesus? (wary, grateful, apprehensive, mixed feelings, scared)*
- *What quality do the four men possess*

they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk?' But so you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" – Mark 2:1-12

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## LET US PRAY

Find a quiet place to pray. Let go of the stress and anxiety of the day. Become aware of God's closeness to you.

After a while, slowly READ the gospel passage from St. Mark. Notice the different groups of people and their re-actions to the un-named paralytic and his four friends.

Take time to RE-READ the gospel passage. What words or phrases stand out for you? Who is speaking them? What do they mean to you?

Share your questions and insights with Jesus. Listen to his responses.

Pray: GLORY BE to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever!

*that impresses you the most? (faith, ingenuity, concern for their friend, determination, boldness)*

- *If you had friends who would take you to Jesus for healing today, what kind of healing would you ask for? (physical, spiritual, emotional, boldness)*
- *What characteristic do you most value in a friend? (loyalty, good humor, compassion, honesty, understanding, strong faith, others: \_\_\_\_\_)*

## ST. JULIE SAYS

**"Let us be cross-bearers. My dear, dear daughters, let us love the cross. In the cross, just because they cherish it, true Sisters of Notre Dame find peace."**

*–St. Julie Billiart, Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur*