

Pearls of Wisdom-

(Intro)

January 1 – Live what you believe. Represent Jesus in your person. Cause the world to want what you have. Others will only desire the Jesus in you if He is revealed through your life.

-Kathy Troccoli

January 2 – I am wholly God's, and He is all mine. What should I fear, and what is there I cannot do or suffer for His love, since I am all His? My God, the only thing I desire is to do Your will.

-Bl. Marie-Henry Dominic

January 3 – My vocation is to let myself be led like a child, one day at a time.

-Bl. Pierina Morosini

January 4 – Daily, one must remember that life is to be lived toward God; that Christ is present at every moment waiting for us in the needs of people. One must turn toward Him in every mood, to accept His love and be refreshed and created anew. There is always the memory of the central miracle of conversion: that Christ found me forlorn and helpless in the confusion of the

ways of the world and drew me by His love into His fellowship and the friendship of Christians.

-Ronda Chervin

January 5

[Jesus] is present in all if we take the time to look for Him. Begin each day with quiet time devoted just to Him. Listen deep within your soul and He will let His presence be felt. He is truly a marvelous friend, but be prepared for the surprises, for He is a mystery, and one must be willing to walk in darkness at times. He may be silent, but He is there.

-Anita Hickey

January 6

God is the friend of silence. We need to find God, but we cannot find Him in noise or in excitement.

-Mother Teresa

January 7

To love simply means to put others before ourselves, to rise above the pettiness of ego, and in doing that, we can never go amiss.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

January 8

Let us be sure that we understand what an honor it is for us to spend time in prayer, as much time as we wish, as intimately as we wish. The man who wins an hour-long audience from his prince, considers himself lucky. And our God, before whom the kings of the earth are less than a spark in the full blaze of the sun, and less than a little worm in the presence of the highest angels – this great God, nevertheless, is eager to hear us no matter what hour of the day or night we turn to Him.

-St. Jane de Chantal

January 9

I must never allow the world to evangelize me, so that I forget God's power and wisdom and look to worldly power and wisdom. Jesus gives us the Church, our guiding light on the journey. He gives us the Vicar of Christ, the pope, and the bishops, who mission it is to urge us continually on the journey to God.

-Sr. Briega McKenna

January 10

The duty of the moment is what you should be doing at any given time, in whatever place God has put you. Your

doing the duty of the moment, your living the nitty gritty, daily routine of ordinary life, can uncover the face of Christ in the marketplace.... where you work or play or eat... or wherever.

-Catherine Doherty

January 11

To me, pain is a treasure..... I know that on my own I can accomplish nothing. Pain makes me dependent on God for everything. It keeps me with Jesus. It is a gift, a kind of security that keeps me from becoming proud and arrogant or from taking credit for what God is doing.

-Mother Angelica

January 12

We give Him with our hands and eyes and ears, with the words we speak, the journeys we make, by our human friendships and human loves.

-Caryll Houselander

January 13

What is it in our lives that chokes out the word of God?..... We need to decide to root it out. Not tomorrow or the next day or next week or next year, but *now*.

What God has for us is so much better than the pleasures we cling to in order to get through the pressures and tensions of life.

-Ann Shields

January 14

Let nothing disturb you; nothing fright you; all things are passing: God never changes. Patience attains all that it strives for; he who has God finds he lacks nothing – God alone suffices.

-St. Teresa of Avila

January 15

Our Lord gave me a spiritual insight into the unpretentious manner of His loving. I saw that for us He is everything that is good, comforting and helpful; He is our clothing, who for love, wraps us up, holds us close; He entirely encloses us for tender love, so that He may never leave us, since He is the source of all good things for us.

-Julian of Norwich

January 16

God's love brings to the soul and to the body all kinds of abundance of happiness, blessedness and glory; and it never ceases to love us and its love diminishes for the whole of eternity.

-Francisca Javiera del Valle

January 17

Not by.... Violence will [the Church] regain her beauty but through peace and through the constant humble prayers and sweat and tears poured out by my servants with eager desire.

-St. Catherine of Siena

January 18

The whole world is asleep, and God, so full of goodness, so great, so worthy of all praise, not one is thinking of Him! See, nature praises Him, and man... who ought to praise Him, sleeps! Let us go and wake up the universe... and sing His praises.

-St. Mariam Baouardy

January 19

O my God, fill my soul with holy joy, courage and strength to serve You. Enkindle Your love in me and then

walk with me along the next stretch of road before me. I do not see very far ahead, but when I have arrived where the horizon now closes down, a new prospect will open before me, and I shall meet it with peace.

-St. Edith Stein

January 20

Our labor here is brief, but the reward is eternal. Do not be disturbed by the clamor of the world which passes like a shadow. Do not let the false delights of a deceptive world deceive you.

-St. Clare of Assisi

January 21

You may stain your sword with my blood, but you will never be able to profane my body, consecrated to Christ.

-St. Agnes

January 22

In order to become an instrument in His hands, we must be of no account in our own eyes.

-St. Angela Merici

January 23

I think, dear child, the trouble and long loneliness you hear me speak of is not far from me, which whensoever it is, happy success will follow.... The pain is great, but very endurable, because He who lays on the burden also carries it.

-Mary Ward

(Foundress of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

January 24

I am not afraid. I have been waiting for my Lord for a long time. He is the one who has made me love death and now my one desire is to go and be with him.

-St. Rafka al-Rayes

January 25

In the will of God is our peace.

-Carla Ronci

January 26

God is my witness that what I do, I do for His sake. My prayer is that I may die a beggar, not leaving a penny to my daughter and indebted to strangers for my winding-sheet.

-St. Paula of Rome

January 27

If any person, because of his state in life, cannot do without wealth and position, let him at least keep his heart empty of the love of them.

-St. Angela Merici

January 28

You and I must have but one sole aim: to grow in holiness along the road that God in His Goodness has mapped out for us.

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

January 29

Love is nourished with sacrifice. Let us love Jesus Christ a great deal, suffering much for His love, because He has suffered more for us.

-Sr. Mary Angel of St. Joseph

January 30

O Lord, I am not worth of You. Come in my heart and soul and mind, guide my every thought, word and deed.

-St. Germaine de Pibrac

January 31

By heaven's grace, captivity has found me a poor woman, not made me one. Now I shall go in want of daily bread, but I shall not feel hunger since I am full of Christ.

-St. Marcella

February 1

When you seek truth, you seek God whether you know it or not.

-St. Edith Stein

February 2

To overcome the world, we must become children.

-Caryll Houselander

February 3

Acquire inner peace and a multitude will find their salvation near you.

-Catherine de Hueck Doherty

February 4

Take this from me – though now the happies of poor and banished sinners.... Jesus is everywhere, in the very air I breathe.

-St. Elizabeth Seton

February 5

Lord Jesus Christ, you know what is in my heart and mind. Take me and all that I am and make me your own.

-St. Agatha

February 6

Today many Catholics believe we idolize Mary and are inclined to place her above Christ. I truly feel sorry for these people, for they do not know that Mary's greatest grace is to bring us to an intimate relationship with her Divine Son.

-Anita Hickey

February 7

Prayer reveals to souls the vanity of earthly goods and pleasures. It fills them with light, strength and consolation; and gives them a foretaste of the calm bliss of our heavenly home.

-St. Rose of Viterbo

February 8

When a woman imagines that God is happy with her only when she is doing her duty sacrificially and against the grain, I believe that she is mistaken. When she responds

freely to the Holy Spirit and, through specific efforts, adds to the beauty and goodness of the world around her, is this not also God's will?

-Ronda Chervin

February 9

I know you can't. Neither can I, but did you ever stop to think that Jesus and you can?

-Mother M. Angeline Teresa McCrory

February 10

Prayer may seem a complicated subject at first, but it is really nothing more than the practice of opening our hearts to the Divine mystery – and allowing that mystery to infuse us with love.

-Anne Gordon

February 11

Believe that He loves you, that He wants to help you in the struggles you have to undergo. Believe in His love, His exceeding love, as St. Paul says.

-St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

February 12

O Father, Source of all love, multiply our works of charity and render them fruitful unto eternal life.

-St. Margaret d'Youville

February 13

With the help and blessing of God, we shall do all in our power that our new family may be a little cenacle where Jesus may reign over all affections, desires and actions.

-Bl. Gianna Beretta Molla

February 14

I include Ludwig [her husband] in my love for God, and I hope that God, who sanctified marriage, will grant us an eternal life.

-St. Elizabeth of Hungary

February 15

The question alone important, the solution of which depends upon how I have spent my life, is the state of my soul at the moment of death. Infinite misery or infinite happiness! There is no half and half, either one or the other.

-St. Katharine Drexel

February 16

With God there is no need for long speeches. In heaven the angels utter no other word than this: HOLY. This is their entire prayer, and in paradise they are occupied with this single word as an act of homage to the single Word of God who lives eternally.

-St. Jane de Chantal

February 17

When it seems that God shows us the faults of others, keep on the safer side. It may be that your judgment is false.

-St. Catherine of Siena

February 18

God deliver us from sullen saints!

-St. Teresa of Avila

February 19

We must desire Him as He desires us – freely and completely, without reservation and without condition. God, in His love for us, has given us free will so that our desire for Him might be pure and genuine.

-Johnette Williams

February 20

If we would just take time with Him.... Make time for Him... We would be so much more in tune with what His desires are for us.

-Kathy Troccoli

February 21

When a person loves another dearly, he desires strongly to be close to the other; therefore, why be afraid to die? Death brings us to God!

-Bl. Josephine Bakhita

February 22

Then I saw truly that it gives more praise to God and more delight if we pray steadfast in love, trusting His goodness, clinging to Him by grace, than if we ask for everything our thoughts can name.

-Julian of Norwich

February 23

The sheriffs have said that I am going to die this coming Friday; and I feel the weakness of my flesh which is troubled at this news, but my spirit rejoices greatly. For the love of God, pray for me and ask all good people to do likewise.

-St. Margaret Clitherow

February 24

We are too little to be able always to rise above difficulties. Well, then, let us pass beneath them quite simply.

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

February 25

I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection, O Lord. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor.

-St. Faustina Kowalska

February 26

The path to peace is not to seek it, but to seek selflessness. Self-seeking of any kind narrows our potential and destroys the balance on which peace depends.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

February 27

Jesus has chosen us for Himself. We belong to Him. Let us be so convinced of this “belonging” that we allow nothing, however small, to separate us from His love.

-Mother Teresa

February 28

O Jesus, how long man’s life is, though we speak of it as short! Short it is, my God, for gaining life that cannot end, but very long for the soul that desires to see itself in the presence of its God.

-St. Teresa of Avila

February 29

This morning my soul is greater than the world since it possesses You, You whom heaven and earth do not contain.

-St. Margaret of Cortona

March 1

By stripping Yourself of life, You have clothed us in grace. By being filled with shame Yourself, You have restored honor to us. By becoming darksome in Your humanity, You have given us back the light. By being stretched out on the cross, You have embraced us.

-St. Catherine of Siena

March 2

Our rest in a world that is full of unrest is Christ's trust in His Father; our peace in a world without peace is our surrender....

-Caryll Houselander

March 3

The patient and humble endurance of the cross – whatever nature it may be – is the highest work we have to do.

-St. Katherine Drexel

March 4

Melancholy is the poison of devotion. When one is in tribulation, it is necessary to be more happy and joyful because one is nearer to God.

-St. Clare of Assisi

March 5

Our condition is most noble, being so beloved of the most high God that He was willing to die for our sake,

which He would not have done if many had not been a most noble creature and of great worth.

-St. Angela of Foligno

March 6

Lord you are my joy and happiness, the only treasure I have in this world. I do not wish for material goods but think only of you. My dear Lord and my God, do not leave me.

-Margery Kempe

March 7

It shall happen as God shall choose, for assuredly we depend not on our own power but on the power of God.

-St. Perpetua

March 8

I could not be happy without the Cross – I would not lay it down for all the world could give. With the Cross I am happy, but without it, would be lost.

-St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop

March 9

God is there in these moments of rest and can give us in a single instant exactly what we need. Then the rest of the day can take its course, under the same effort and strain, perhaps, but in peace. And when night comes, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that as gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with Him. Then you will be able to rest in Him – really rest – and start the next day as a new life.

-St. Edith Stein

March 10

Jesus will bring needy people across your path. He knows when he places them there that you will not step on them. You will be uncomfortable looking the other way and detouring around them. You won't turn your back on them because you will not turn your back on Jesus.

-Patricia A. McLaughlin

March 11

Eternity, eternity, when shall I come to You at last? In eternity where we will love with a glance of the soul.

-St. Elizabeth Seton

March 12

One need not be reminded of all the many responsibilities we have in our daily lives. However, once we realize how much Christ wants us to be aware of his presence, we can make our many tasks much easier to accomplish. He walks with us through the dishes, cooking, shopping.....

-Anita Hickey

March 13

O my Jesus, transform me into Yourself, for you can do all things.

-St. Faustina Kowalska

March 14

Unless we are willing to do the ridiculous, God cannot do the miraculous.

-Mother Angelica

March 15

Love the poor, honor them, as you would honor Christ.

-St. Louise de Marillac

March 16

I have always been taught that the secret of happiness is living moment by moment and to thank God for everything that in His goodness He sends us, day after day.

-Bl. Gianna Beretta Molla

March 17

We need crosses in order to reach heaven.

-St. Marie-Marguerite d'Youville

March 18

Father, let our whole life become a prayer that rises up to you like fire and sweeps along in its flame everything evil and impure, all that belongs to us and to others, so that you may fill it up with Your Spirit and may make it good enough to become Yours and to be used by You.

-Adrienne von Speyr

March 19

Above all else, I strongly advise you to be very faithful to your duties as a Christian. That is where you will find strength and light in all your troubles and difficulties.

-St. Bernadette

March 20

A good and perfect prayer requires that we forget self, that we be ready to sacrifice all that we are for God.

-St. Jane de Chantal

March 21

[During a discussion of an orphanage purchase] Our Lord is our banker. He will not fail to help me find the money.

-St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, MSC aka "Mother Cabrini"

March 22

My daughter, I see more Pharisees among the Christians than there were around Pilate.

-St. Margaret of Cortona

March 23

God does not intervene to change the circumstances of our life: what He does do, with the most compassionate

faithfulness, is enable us to make those circumstances fruitful.... God is what happens to us; His presence makes everything potential for growth in love and goodness. Yes, let Him make us holy.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

March 24

It is God's will that we should rejoice with Him in our salvation, and that we should be cheered and strengthened by it. He wants our soul to delight in its salvation, through His grace. For we are the apple of His eye.

-Julian of Norwich

March 25

In what peace, in what recollection Mary lent herself to everything she did! How even the most trivial things were divinized by her! For through it all the Virgin remained the adorer of the gift of God!

-St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

March 26

With another birthday on your shoulders, there must be more love because life is a blessing. Love of God should

increase day after day. Have confidence in God and all will be well. Be faithful and happy in Him.

-Sr. Estelle Gingras, S.G.M

March 27

Take the cross He sends, as it is, and not as you imagine it to be.

-Mother Cornelia Connelly

March 28

How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers.

-Mother Teresa

March 29

O Christ, I unite my sufferings to yours, my pains with your pains as I look at Your head crowned with thorns.

-St. Rafka de Himalaya

March 30

God has called us to speak the word that is Christ, that is truth, that is salvation. And if we speak that word in love and faith, with patience and prayer and perseverance, it

will take root. It does have the power to save us. Call one another! Testify! Teach! Act on the Word! Witness!

-Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman

March 31

I pray you, do not make much account of certain trifles which some call wrongs and grievances; for we seem to manufacture these things out of straws, like children, with our points of honor. A truly humble person never believes that he can be wronged in anything.

-St. Teresa of Avila

April 1

Blessing God in the midst of trials is a praiseworthy manifestation of the spirit of faith. We must, therefore, not only believe that God is not mistaken, but also seek to adapt ourselves to the Divine plan, and enter humbly by means of meditation and prayer, into the Divine plan.

-Mother Marie des Doulours

April 2

A living love hurts. Jesus, to prove His love for us, died on the Cross. The mother, to give to her child, has to suffer.

If you really love one another properly, there must be sacrifice.

-Mother Teresa

April 3

As I spend more time with God in prayer, listening to and meditating on His Word, I'm learning many important things, and He is changing me. I feel less driven to do everything. Instead of seeking the approval of others, I'm motivated to please the Lord.

-Debra Herbeck

April 4

There was given unto me the desire to seek out and know the way of the Cross, that I might stand at its foot and find refuge there, where all sinners find refuge.

-St. Angela of Foligno

April 5

Do you want to be totally united to the Crucified? If you are serious about this, you will be present, by the power of His Cross, at every front, at every place of sorrow, bringing to those who suffer comfort, healing, and salvation.

-St. Edith Stein

April 6

I for the love of Jesus forgive my murderer and I want him to be with me in paradise. May God forgive him, because I have already forgiven him.

-St. Maria Goretti

April 7

Mary's life was a life of loneliness and poverty, with her Son dying a criminal's death. Her only solace was faith!

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

April 8

"Go and sin no more." This is what Jesus says to me every time I go to confession.... These words of Our Lord touch me to the quick. How delicate is the heart of Jesus, such love and such tenderness could proceed only from God!

-Concepción Cabrera de Armida

April 9

If you're a Catholic you believe what the Church teaches and the climate makes no difference.

-Flannery O'Connor

April 10

The essence of prayer lies not in being always on your knees, but in conforming your will totally to God in all the events of life.

-St. Jane de Chantal

April 11

You have no time to occupy your thoughts with that complacency or consideration of what others will think. Your business is simply, "What will my Father in heaven think?"

-St. Katherine Drexel

April 12

Finally, and most importantly, a new feminism, a Christian feminism, remembers God. How can we fail to understand the dignity with which we've been endowed if we remember the One who created us and why... A new feminism must remember that God will never underestimate women's potential or the gifts we can bring to private and public life. At the same time, it remembers that, like Jesus – the model for humanity –

and like all human beings, we are created to serve others. Such a feminism will leave no victims in its wake.

-Helen Alvare

April 13

Granting that we are always in the presence of God, yet it seems that those who pray are in His presence in a very different sense: for they, as it were, see that He is looking upon them, while others may be for days together without even recollecting that God sees them.

-St. Teresa of Avila

April 14

I will refuse my heart to no one. I will be sincere even with those who, I know, will abuse my kindness. And I will lock myself up in the most merciful Heart of Jesus. I will bear my own suffering in silence. May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me...

-St. Faustina Kowalska

April 15

Now how do you show the face of Christ to a world that is secular, atheistic, indifferent, greedy and selfish? By doing what he asks you to do. And His voice is very

simple. He says, 'Love God with your whole life, your whole heart. And love your neighbor as yourself (Mt 22: 38-39).'

-Catherine Doherty

April 16

How sweet the [Eucharistic] presence of Jesus to the longing, harassed soul! It is instant peace, and balm to every wound.

-St. Elizabeth Seton

April 17

I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of God.

-St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

April 18

Just as our bodies have been created with the capacity to bear physical life, our souls have been especially created by God to bring *spiritual* life to the world. Thus, our call to motherhood is in no way diminished or negated by a life of celibacy or an inability to physically bear children. *All women are meant to bring life.*

-Johnette Williams

April 19

He longs to hold you, to care for you. He longs to meet your needs and for you to put your trust in Him. He is a faithful God with arms that will never let you go.

-Kathy Troccoli

April 20

Through the surrendering to His Passion we understand the integral meaning of Jesus. He waited in patience for His deliverance, not FROM disaster, but THROUGH it. In Him, we too are free when entrapped, empowered to make all our distress a holy purification.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

April 21

All consolation has gone. My heart yearns for someone to lean on... I must lean on God, and on Him alone.

-St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

April 22

If you walk rooted in Christ, strengthened in your faith, you will live in thanksgiving: the love of the sons of God!

-St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

April 23

I am your message, Lord. Throw me like a blazing torch into the night, that all may see and understand what it means to be a disciple.

-Mother Maria Skobtsova

April 24

Rest is the condition of natural growth; equally it is the condition of supernatural life... there must be a permanent state of inward rest [in the self], founded in the peace of mind which comes from complete trust.

-Caryll Houselander

April 25

I do not beg you, my God, not to afflict me, but that you abandon me not in my affliction.

-St. Bernadette of Soubirous

April 26

Oh Jesus, I love You very much... Give me a heart as big as the universe... Tell me what You wish that I do, and do with me as You will.

-St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, MSC aka "Mother Cabrini"

April 27

It is such a joy when I awaken to salute God by singing.

-Bl. Teresa of the Andes

April 28

No matter what terrible choices we make in our lives, it is always true that we were created for heaven. Our Creator had one purpose in mind when He fashioned our souls: to live with Him forever in eternal happiness, with no more suffering.

-Rachel Muha

April 29

Whenever you think God has shown you other people's faults, take care: your own judgement may well be at fault. Say nothing. And if you do attribute any vice to another person, immediately and humbly look for it in yourself also. Should the other person really possess that vice, he will correct himself so much the better when he sees how gently you understand him and he will say to himself whatever you would have told him.

-St. Catherine of Siena

April 30

We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend on material success; nor on sciences that cloud the intellect. Neither does it depend on arms and human industries, but on Jesus alone.

-St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, MSC aka "Mother Cabrini"

May 1

What's the will of the Father? It's so simple. It's the duty of the moment.

-Catherine Doherty

May 2

What is the use of all these fine sentiments, these transports of love and elevation of the soul that should unite us to God, since failing in our obligations we should separate ourselves from Him?

-Bl. Barbe Acarie

May 3

God will not transform us if we insist on offering Him only our goodness, our successes, our strengths. Controlled

prayer is only partial prayer: it is the giving up of the control to God that makes prayer true.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

May 4

Our Lord does not come down from Heaven every day to lie in a golden ciborium. He comes to find another heaven which is infinitely dearer to Him – the heaven of our souls.

May 5

Hungry souls are everywhere. Be watchful. Remain open. He will fill your eyes with compassion, your words with wisdom, and your heart with mercy. Introduce the world to love. Introduce the world to Jesus.

-Kathy Troccoli

May 6

People throughout the world may look different or have a different religion, education or position, but they are all the same. They are all people to be loved. They are all hungry for love. The people you see in the streets of India or Hong Kong are hungry in body, but the people in

London or New York also have a hunger which must be satisfied. Every person needs to be loved.

-Mother Teresa

May 7

I know that soldiers have a lot to endure, and to endure in silence. If upon rising they would only take the trouble to say to Our Lord every morning this tiny phrase: 'My God, I desire to do and endure everything today for love of Thee,' what glory they would heap up for eternity! Why a soldier who did that and was as loyal as possible to his Christian duties would earn as much reward as any cloistered monk!

-St. Bernadette

May 8

We like to plan the life that we shall offer to God in just the way that seems good and aesthetically right to us, to achieve holiness between four walls, with every modern convenience, undisturbed sessions of solitude, work and prayer, and a selected number of friends on whom to exercise our charity and with whom to live, reasonably, easily, at peace. It is difficult to imagine that a plan like this – so full of sweet order, prudence and common

sense, so harmless – could not be pleasing to God. Yet God changes everything.

-Caryll Houselander

May 9

Make many acts of love, for they set the soul on fire and make it gentle. Whatever you do, offer it up to God, and pray it may be for His honor and glory.

-St. Teresa of Avila

May 10

All the way to heaven is heaven, because He said, “I am the Way.”

-St. Catherine of Siena

May 11

Each member of the Company should strive to despoil herself of everything and set all her good, her love, her delight, not in robes, not in food nor in relatives, but in God alone and in His benign and ineffable Providence.

-St. Angela Merici

May 12

Many of us are burdened with anxieties and difficulties... We have legitimate needs, yet we so easily act like unbelievers who have no loving Father. We need to live like people who are confident in that we have a Father in heaven, one who clothes and cares for the birds of the air and lilies of the field – and one who most certainly will care for us.

-Ann Shields

May 13

If I saw the gates of Hell open and I stood on the brink of the abyss, I should not despair. I should not lose hope of mercy, because I should trust in Thee, my God.

-St. Gemma Galgani

May 14

Without service, there is no grace. Let no one be mistaken, this is the heavenly measure of one's life.

-St. Rose of Lima

May 15

If you want to keep peace and charity among you, let each one be willing to take blame.

-Ven. Thecla Merlo

May 16

Adored Lord, increase my faith – perfect it – crown it,
your own, your choicest, dearest gift, having drawn me
from the pit, and borne me to your fold, keep me in your
sweet pastures – and lead me to eternal life.

-St. Elizabeth Seton

May 17

I remembered, oh, as a child, when I contemplated the
sun, the moon, the stars and all the wonderful things of
nature, I was wondering, ‘Who is the master of it all?’
And I felt a keen desire to see Him, to know Him and to
pay him homage.

-St. Josephine Bakhita

May 18

Ample hemmed

baptismal gown

Mother Church

will slowly

let it down.

In heaven

it will be a perfect fit.

-Ronda Chervin

May 19

If the home is Christocentric, if Mary, the mother of Jesus, is loved and cherished in it, if the avowed and openly discussed goal of the whole family is sanctity, and if life is lived and measured against that goal, then the environment does not matter. In fact, a family like that, in any given neighborhood, will soon change the environment of their neighborhood.

-Catherine Doherty

May 20

To walk in Jesus Christ seems to me to mean to leave self, lose sight of self, give up self, in order to enter more deeply into Him with every passing moment, so deeply

that one is rooted there; and to every event, to every circumstance we can fling this beautiful challenge: “Who will separate me from the love of Jesus Christ?”

-St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

May 21

Hope everything from the mercy of God. It is as boundless as His Power.

-St. Frances of Rome

May 22

To offer ourselves to the Father, to fulfill His adorable will; this is the path of holiness as I understand it.

-St. Teresa of Jesus Fernandez

May 23

Difficulties, difficulties! What are our difficulties, my daughter? They are childish fantasies, enlarged by the vividness of imaginations not yet accustomed to being enclosed and immersed in the omnipotent God.

-St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, MSC aka “Mother Cabrini”

May 24

You will effect more by kind words and a courteous manner, than by anger or sharp rebuke, which should never be used but in necessity.

-St. Angela Merici

May 25

The last thing I ask of you [her Sisters] – and I ask it in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – is that you love Him alone, that you trust implicitly in Him and that you encourage one another continually to suffer for the love of Him.

-St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

May 26

Anyone who belongs to Christ is destined to pass through all the stages of His life – up to and including his adulthood, and eventually even to the way of the Cross that leads to Gethsemane and Golgotha.

-St. Edith Stein

May 27

Oh, Lord! Thou art the life of my life, Thou art my treasure without whom all riches are poverty to me. How joyfull, O Lord, do I offer myself to endure willingly

all sorts of torments for Thy love, Though knowest that I seek and desire nothing but Thee, who art inexhaustible sweetness, without whom I should seem to be in hell.

-St. Margaret of Cortona

May 28

He said not, 'Thou shalt not be tempested, thou shalt not be travailed, though shalt not be afflicted,' but He said, 'Thou shalt not be overcome.'

-Julian of Norwich

May 29

Hard work, dangerous for an imperfect soul, brings a great harvest for those who love the Lord.

-St. Madeleine Barat

May 30

Perform faithfully what God requires of you each moment, and leave the thought of everything else to Him. I assure you that to live in this way will bring you great peace.

-St. Jane Frances de Chantal

May 31

I guess that is what dying must be like; to be finished and to be able to look back at the struggles of life, and know that God was your constant companion.

-Mother Angelica

June 1

Our soul is so specially loved by Him who is highest that it goes far beyond the ability of any creature to realize it... There is no creature made who can realize how much, how sweetly and how tenderly our Maker loves us.

-Julian of Norwich

June 2

I want to be a saint.. It will not be easy, for there is much wood to be pruned and it is hard as flint.

-St. Zelig Martin

June 3

The more we love God, the more we will want to love God.

-St. Joaquina

June 4

To sin is human, but to persist in sin is devilish.

-St. Catherine of Siena

June 5

A Christian is a tabernacle of the living God. He created me, He chose me, He came to dwell in me, because He wanted me. Now that you have known how much God is in love with you, it is but natural that you spend the rest of our life radiating that love.

-Mother Teresa

June 6

You are not a saint because you keep the rules and are blameless; you are a saint if you live in the real world, going out and loving the real people whom God has put into your life.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

June 7

I beg God's goodness to manifest itself to you, for I feel confident that the revelation will give rise to deep humility and embarrassment at seeing yourself selected for such a task, and will inspire you with the resolution never to fall short of your calling.

-St. Louise de Marillac

June 8

Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase.

-St. Rose of Lima

June 9

Trials are not intended to crush us, but to teach and purify and strengthen us. Allowing ourselves to be crushed by them, even accepting them with resignation, is really no way to bless God for them... From today on, let's tear down and rebuild within ourselves, and wherever our influence extends, according to the very clear indications that our trials have brought us.

-Mother Marie des Doulours

June 10

O great Lord God, You see that my will is to love You and to try to avoid offending You. O Lord, open your heart and throw out the flames of love. Enkindle my heart with these flames and burn me with love.

-St. Clelia Barbieri

June 11

We become cooperators with God in the work of creation. Thus we can give Him children who will love and serve Him.

-St. Gianna Beretta Molla

June 12

We have to aim at life not death, at doing good in order to honor and glorify God in ourselves.

-St. Catherine dei Ricci

June 13

O dear Lord

Could I but fly to Africa

and proclaim aloud to all my people

Your goodness to me!

How many souls would hear my voice

And turn to you.

-St. Josephine Bakhita

June 14

Be content to remain an empty vessel, simply receiving whatever the holy charity of the Savior may wish to pour in.

-St. Jane de Chantal

June 15

We must stand out as lights in the darkness, become signs of God's love in a nation seduced by humanism and enchanted with lies. We must be purveyors of life in a culture infatuated with death. Bearing the life of God within us, we must offer love in the image of our Father to those who have not yet heard.

-Johnette Williams

June 16

Jesus is my beauty. He is my loveliness, my confidence. He is the charisma, the attractiveness that is right and true – that breeds life not death.... The perfume the world, our family and our friends will take notice of. What is she wearing? Jesus. The answer must be Jesus.

-Kathy Troccoli

June 17

Those in whom self predominates seem to suffer much; for they make everyone around them continuously aware of everything they are enduring, either by incessant self-pity and complaints, or by incessant bravado and boasting about their fortitude.

-Caryll Houselander

June 18

What weighs heavily does not come from outside; it lives and is formed in my own self; it is all that I am attached to, all that I do not want to do without, that serves as support and consolation, all that I believe myself entitled to. Take, Lord, everything... which paralyzes my love for You, which makes Your love for my neighbor come to a standstill and freeze within me.

-Adrienne von Speyr

June 19

Everywhere I go, He is with me, within my poor heart. He is the little home where I dwell... He is my heaven on earth.

-St. Teresa of Jesus Fernandez

June 20

Everywhere I go, He is with me, within my poor heart. He is the little home where I dwell... He is my heaven on earth.

-St. Teresa of Jesus Fernandez

June 20

God gave me a father and mother more worthy of heaven than earth.

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

June 21

I hear at every step that the saints did this or that, but what did they do that we cannot do?... Do we not have the Sorrowful Virgin to help us? Jesus Christ to encourage us?

-Sr. Maria Aparecida, O.P.

June 22

If I had the misfortune to deny my God, I should die of grief.

-Maria de la Luz Camacho

June 23

Jesus walks before us cutting down the branches, but He wants us to follow Him with courage. So let us forge ahead.

-St. Maria Troncatti, FMA

June 24

Surely the next blessing in our future existence to that of being near the Source of Perfection will be the enjoyment of each other's company without dread of interruption.

-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

June 25

Enlighten me, strengthen me, so that I may understand and know my divine call, who I am, what I should be, and what I must do, as well as the means by which these ends may be accomplished.

-Bl. Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

June 26

We crush the head of the serpent when we scorn and trample underfoot the glory of the world, the praises, the vanities and all the other pomps of pride.

-St. Marie of the Incarnation

June 27

Love is a foretaste of heaven, for there we will know an integration of body, heart, mind and spirit such as we glimpse when our eyes, with intense wonder, meet those of the One we love.

-Ronda Chervin

June 28

Though we do not have Our Lord with us in bodily presence, we have our neighbor, who, for the ends of love and loving service, is as good as Our Lord.

-St. Teresa of Avila

June 29

We must keep near to the souls puts in our way, and try to understand and love them. Here we have discovered, by God's grace, the sources of peace and the means of possessing it fully.

-Elizabeth Lesur

June 30

The darkness which leads to God is faith. It is the only means leading to union, for it presents God to us as He is, as the infinite Triune One. Faith resembles God in that it blinds human reason and appears to it as darkness.

-St. Edith Stein

July 1

Entering into silence should be like stepping into cool, clear water. The dust and debris are quietly washed away and we are purified of our triviality. We are simplified, beautified, and should be mindful that we have only to be still, letting God's grace refresh us and the sunlight of His peace shine upon us.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

July 2

In prayer, more is accomplished by listening than by talking.

-St. Jane de Chantal

July 3

Oh Master.... never have I loved Thee saving deceitfully. I have served Thee with lies and I have never desired to draw nigh unto Thee in very truth for fear lest I might feel

those burdens which Thou didst feel and bear for my sake...

-St. Angela of Foligno

July 4

In the morning I will stand before Thee, my God, and will contemplate Thee, my dearest Love, because Thou are pure delightsomeness and sweetness eternal.

-St. Gertrude the Great

July 5

Trivial suffering is not trivial in its effects. It has tremendous power for good and tremendous power for evil. It can be destructive, and warp and starve our personality. It is almost always trivial suffering which, when not deliberately sacrificed, results in the most lethal disease of human character, self-pity. Self-pity reveals a void in us, an emptiness that is the absence of God, a vacuum which sucks us in, into ourselves, distorting us in the process.

-Caryll Houselander

July 6

I gave [my cloak] to a half-naked beggar. Better to be without a cloak than without charity.

-St. Catherine of Siena

July 7

Let us lovingly eat this bread of the will of God. If sometimes His will is more crucifying, we can doubtless say with our adored Master: "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by," but we will add immediately: "Yet not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39); and in strength and serenity, with the divine Crucified, we will also climb our Calvary singing in the depths of our hearts and raising a hymn of thanksgiving to the Father. For those who march on this way of sorrows are those "whom He foreknew and predestined to be conformed to the image of His divine Son." (Romans 8:29) – the One crucified by love!

-St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

July 8

If He came down on certain days only, some sinner, on being moved to repentance, might have to look for Him, and not finding Him, have to wait. Our Lord prefers to wait Himself for the sinner for years rather than keep him waiting for an instant.

-St. Maria Goretti

July 9

Yes, in silence we can actually break the hold time has on us, and accept that our true home is not here on earth, but in eternity.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

July 10

How often I have failed in my duty to God, because I was not leaning on the strong pillar of prayer.

-St. Teresa of Avila

July 11

Serve and make others happy.

-Bl. Sr. Marie-Clémentine Anuarite Nengapeta

July 12

I am the happiest person on earth. I desire nothing more because my entire being has been seized by God who is Love.

-St. Teresa of Jesus Fernandez

July 13

For a person my himself can frequently be broken... but the whole body of holy Church was never broken and never shall be, without end. Therefore, it is a sure thing, a good thing, and a gracious thing to will meekly and powerfully to be fastened and joined to our mother, Holy Church, that is Christ Jesus.

-Julian of Norwich

July 14

I am not my own; I have given myself to Jesus. He must be my only love. The state of helpless poverty that may befall me if I do not marry does not frighten me. All I need is a little food and a few pieces of clothing. With the work of my hands I shall always earn what is necessary and what is left over I'll give to my relatives and the poor. If I should become sick and unable to work, then I shall be like the Lord on the cross. He will have mercy on me and help me, I am sure.

-St. Kateri Tekakwitha

July 15

As I spend more time with God in prayer, listening to and meditating on His Word, I'm learning many important things, and He is changing me. I feel less driven to do

everything. Instead of seeking the approval of others, I'm motivated to please the Lord.

-Debra Herbeck

July 16

There are difficulties, sufferings, and worries... But one beautiful day it will all be over, and we will find ourselves united in Heaven with the Blessed Trinity, with Mary most holy, with our dear ones and with the Sisters have gone before us. This is our joy and our comfort.

Courage!

-Ven. Thecla Merlo

July 17

I think service to the world is simply the giving of one's own soul in order to save others.

-Mother Maria Skobtsova

July 18

I am going slowly, slowly towards eternity.... I carry two bags with me: one contains my sins, the other, much, much heavier, contains the infinite merits of Jesus Christ. When I appear before the tribunal of God, I will cover my ugly bag with the merits of Our Lady. Then I shall open

the other, and I will present to the Eternal Father the merits of His Son, Jesus. I will tell Him, "Now, judge from what You see." I am sure I will not be rejected. Then I will turn to St. Peter and say, "You can close the door after me, I am here to stay."

-St. Josephine Bakhita

July 19

You who broke the flaming sword, and compassionately gave paradise back to the man crucified with You, remember me also in Your kingdom, for I, too, have been crucified with You, having nailed my flesh through fear of You and having feared Your judgements.

-St. Macrina the Younger

July 20

Problems are gifts of God. If you look at them as problems, they will be problems, but if you look at them as gifts of God, they are challenges, and we always welcome challenges. So these are challenges, not problems. God allows these 'challenges' because they are good for us. He will give us the graces to get through. All we need to do is keep being faithful to our commitments, to answer the call of God. Everything else follows.

-Sr. Hermana Nirmala, M.C.

July 21

[On approaching the guillotine where she was about to be executed] Listen, Christians! We are the last victims. The persecution is going to stop. The gallows will be destroyed. The altars of Jesus will rise again gloriously.

-Bl. Madeleine Fontaine

July 22

Preserve me in this heavenly peace; let me continue to rest in Thee, and adore Thee, my Father, Friend, and never failing support.

-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

July 23

True wisdom, then, consists in works, not in great talents which the world admires; for the wise in the world's estimation... are the foolish who set at naught the will of God, and know not how to control their passions.

-St. Brigit of Sweden

July 24

Don't ever forget the place you have with Jesus. It is a place that is reserve for you and you alone – so close to His heart that on some days if you close your eyes and listen intently, you may hear His very breath. It is His breath that continually breathes life into your soul. You are so deeply loved.

-Kathy Troccoli

July 25

You, as a Christian, as a follower of Christ, do your duty of the moment. Whatever your duty is, you do it with great love. And as you do, the image of Christ, the icon of Christ, will be shown to people wherever you are – in your home, in your place of work outside the home, in your school, in the neighborhood where you live, in your church, in the grocery store, wherever you happen to be.

-Servant of God Catherine Doherty

July 26

Why shouldn't we do great things for God? All we really have to do is recognize that it's really God in us, working through us. Remember, the Lord gave the Israelites the best artists, craftsmen and materials to build a temple. The same God is guiding and instructing us today.

-Mother Angelica

July 27

God does not ask of us the perfection of tomorrow, nor even of tonight, but only of the present moment.

-St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

July 28

Each of us is perpetually on the razor's edge: on the one side, absolute nothingness; on the other, the fullness of divine life.

-St. Edith Stein

July 29

I come before Thee, at close of day,
My soul with fears and sad misgivings stirred;
Too tired to pray, I kneel before Thy face
And lay my burden down without a word.
I gaze in silence on the little door
That keeps love's patient Prisoner in thrall,
Not ask for more; my troubled heart has room

For naught save this one thought, -

Thou knowest all.

-Sr. M. Angelita

July 30

To show great love God and our neighbor, we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in the doing that makes our offering something beautiful for God.

-Mother Teresa

July 31

I really believe that obedience is today's crisis. People are saying, 'I will not serve!'

-Mother Angelica

August 1

I have wasted the better part of my life in vanities, in imaginations, in vain pleasures and in foolish illusions... There are immense voids in my life: I have not always done my duty to my neighbor, or to the members of my family... Instead of seeking God, I have sought myself.

-Concepcion Cabrera de Armida

August 2

True charity means returning good for evil – always.

-St. Maria Mazzarello

August 3

Even if you are committing mortal sins, keep on praying, and I guarantee you that you will reach the harbor of salvation.

-St. Teresa of Avila

August 4

All prayer is simply a response to God's unconditional love for us and His invitation to experience that love.

-Johnette Williams

August 5

The Cross is my portion – it is my sweet rest and support.

-St. Mary McKillop

August 6

It is human to fall, but angelic to rise again.

-St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

August 7

The great method of prayer is to have none. If in going to prayer one can form in oneself a pure capacity for receiving the spirit of God, that will suffice for all method.

-St. Jane de Chantal

August 8

Yesterday, on approaching the Most Blessed Sacrament, I felt myself burning and I had to withdraw. I am astounded that so many who receive Jesus are not reduced to ashes.

-St. Gemma Galgani

August 9

Do no, do now, what you will wish to have done when your moment comes to die.

-St. Angela Merici

August 10

Do you want to be totally united to the Crucified? If you are serious about this, you will be present, by the power of His Cross, at every front, at every place of sorrow, bringing to those who suffer, healing and salvation.

-St. Edith Stein

August 11

Place your mind before the mirror of eternity! Place your soul in the brilliance of glory! Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance! And transform your whole being into the image of the Godhead Itself through contemplation!

-St. Clare

August 12

You should never judge sinners, you should never despise them, for you know not the judgments of God.

-St. Angela of Foligno

August 13

Do you want my hands, Lord, to spend the day helping the sick and the poor who need them? Lord, today I give You my hands. Do you want my feet, Lord, to spend the day visiting those who need a friend? Lord, today I give you my feet. Do you want my voice, Lord, to spend the day speaking to all who need your words of love? Lord, today I give you my voice. Do you want my heart, Lord,

to spend the day loving everyone without exception?
Lord, today I give You my heart.

-Mother Teresa

August 14

There is no sin nor wrong that gives a man such a foretaste of hell in this life as anger and impatience.

-St. Catherine of Siena

August 15

How much can we learn from Our Lady! She was so humble because she was all for God. She was full of grace. Tell Our Lady to tell Jesus: "They have no wine; they need the wine of humility and meekness; of kindness and sweetness." She is sure to tell us, "Do whatever He tells you."

-Mother Teresa

August 16

Close your ears to the whisperings of hell and bravely oppose its onslaughts.

-St. Clare of Assisi

August 17

This is the great challenge to us as Catholics. We can't explain the Eucharist because it is a miracle and a mystery. What counts is not understanding in the head, but believing in the heart. Feelings do not make Christ present in the Eucharist. It's the power of the Holy Spirit working through the ordained priest that makes Christ present to us in the Eucharist. I may feel nothing, but Jesus is still there.

-Sr. Briega McKenna

August 18

How do we satisfy the desires of God's gaze but by remaining simply and lovingly turned towards Him so that He may reflect His own image as the sun is reflected through a pure crystal.

-St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

August 19

It is hard to become saints, but we don't want to give up the idea for that. Let us work steadily, with faith, and in the best way we know how. God sees. God is a good cameraman, and at the Judgement He will project the film. See to it that you are good stars – shining stars.

-Ven. Thecla Merlo

August 20

Are you afraid of something that God might ask of you? If you experience fear and doubt, just place yourself before God and ask for the grace. God will give it... If we give Him the right to purify us, the freedom to root out our sin and change us completely, then He will give Himself unreservedly to us. And then we know true power.

-Ann Shields

August 21

We must not lose sight of Him, we must not grow numb to His voice, we must not ever let our lives revolve around ourselves so completely that the One who longs to meet us is left waiting.

-Kathy Troccoli

August 22

O eternal sweetness of my soul, Thou who alone are the Beloved of my heart, Thy Face is all lovely and Thy Heart all inviting; but my thoughts, alas! go wandering far from Thee. Come, O God of my heart, gather together my scattered mental powers and fix them upon Thyself.

-St. Gertrude the Great

August 23

It would have been unbearable [for Mary] to hold that infant Son in her arms, knowing that He must go away to a life of suffering and a cruel death, were it not for her faith in His Heavenly Father, were it not for her certainty that the hands of God would always be holding Him, and that God's hands, incredible though it seemed, would hold Him even more tenderly, even more securely, than hers. This knowledge is necessary for every mother's peace.

-Caryll Houselander

August 24

When we are busy looking at Jesus rather than ourselves, He looks out for us. I seldom pray about my own needs. Frequently, while I am busy ministering to others, Jesus solves my problems for me. This does not mean we will be free of burdens. There will be always be trials but we endure ordeals with greater ease when we give them to Jesus.

-Patricia A. McGlaughlin

August 25

The secret [of joy] lies in making love of God and neighbor our focus with everything else as a gift to be hoped for but not demanded. No matter what changes, losses, and even excruciating pain we undergo, God's love abides and there will always be others who need our caring.

-Ronda Chervin

August 26

Living in a state of gratitude requires a different way of living. We can no longer be as mean or selfish as we were. We must grow beyond our smaller selves to become better people. It requires change, and change is scary for all of us. Often it entails long periods of loneliness.... Jesus asked us to leave behind the world of comfort, family and culture to "go forth from your father's house and country and come into the land that I will show you."

-Anne Gordon

August 27

Nothing is far from God.

-St. Monica

August 28

For me, prayer means launching out of the heart toward God; a cry of grateful love from the crest of joy or the trough of despair: it is a vast, supernatural force that opens out my heart, and binds me close to Jesus.

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

August 29

The thought that has touched me the most is this: God is in me. I am a living tabernacle. It does not have to be difficult to live in union with God... I am content with everything that surrounds me because in everything I detect a gift of God. All the peace which fills and pervades my heart comes from possessing Jesus.

-Carla Ronci

August 30

Christ was crucified on earth and the Church is crucified by all of us, by her members most particularly, because she is a church of sinners. Christ never said that the Church would be operated in a sinless or intelligent way, but that it would not teach error. This does not mean that each and every priest won't teach error, but that the whole Church speaking through the Pope will not teach

errors in matters of faith. The Church is founded on Peter who denied Christ three times and couldn't walk on water by himself.

-Flannery O'Connor

August 31

Blessed be Jesus who is always near in times of stress. Even when we cannot feel his presence, he is close. Jesus said within my heart, 'I will never leave you either in happiness or distress. I will always be there to help you and watch over you. Nothing in heaven or earth can part you from me. When you are quiet and still, I can speak to your heart.

-Margery Kempe

September 1

Never utter in your neighbor's absence what you would not say in their presence.

-St. Mary Magdalene dei Pazzi

September 2

Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbor, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

-St. Faustina Kowalska

September 3

We must become aware that God dwells within us and do everything with Him, then we are never commonplace, even when performing the most ordinary tasks, for we do not live in these things, we go beyond them!

-St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

September 4

Maybe I'm not making big changes in the world, but if I have somehow helped or encouraged somebody along the journey, then I've done what I'm called to do.

-Sr. Thea Bowman

September 5

Each person is the very icon of God incarnate in the world.

-Mother Maria Skobtsova

September 6

Nothing half-hearted for me – I will follow Christ with all my heart and soul.

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

September 7

Know how much he loves you this day. Don't mistake your ability to love or understand with His ability to love and understand... It takes your breath away, and you can only respond with a heart of thankfulness.

-Kathy Troccoli

September 8

Teach us, Lord, to believe in Christian love, to value the movements of the heart more than status in the world. Lord, we cry out to You, make us, your women, as lushly feminine and free as your women saints, Your brides. Let us know that You exalt over us.

-Ronda Chervin

September 9

You the fire that takes away the coldness, illuminates the mind with its light, and causes me to know Your truth.

-St. Catherine of Siena

September 10

The more we receive in our silent prayer, the more we will be able to give in our active life... In silence, we are granted the privilege of listening to His voice. In that silence we will discover a new energy and a real unity – the unity of our thoughts with His, the unity of our prayers with His, the unity of our action with His, the unity of our life with His.

-Mother Teresa

September 11

Consider seriously how quickly people change, and how little trust is to be had in them, and cleave fast unto God, who changes not.

-St. Teresa of Avila

September 12

If the actions of our neighbors have a hundred sides, we ought always to look at them on the best side. When an action is blameworthy, we should strive to see the good intentions back of it.

-St. Theresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart

September 13

We must pray without ceasing, in every occurrence and employment of our lives – that prayer which is rather a habit of lifting up the heart to God as in a constant communication with Him.

-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

September 14

In all my prayers, the first cry from my heart is to ask graces for my husband and children. It is obvious I expect everything from above, from this infinitely bountiful God and from Mary, the Mother of us all, to whom I have entrusted and commended them in a very special way. She will be their shield, their light, their guide, their dearly beloved protectress.

-Bl. Concepción Cabrera de Armida

September 15

All goodness is a participation in God and His love for His creatures.

-St. Catherine of Genoa

September 16

They say we are too poor. Can a heart which possess God really be called poor?

-St. Clare

September 17

Those who desire to do the work of God should never forget that they are fragile vessels.

-St. Hildegard of Bingen

September 18

For the Christian there is no such thing as a “stranger.” There is only the neighbor – the person who happens to be next to us, the person most in need of our help. Whether he is related to us or not, whether we “like” him or not, doesn’t make any difference.

-St. Edith Stein

September 19

All is too little for the Lord. I am ready to do anything for Him... We will lie down for such a long time after death that it is worthwhile to keep standing while we are alive. Let us work now; one day we will rest.

-St. Agostina Pietrantoni

September 20

The blessing of peace is in knowing that we only have to do what we morally can, and then live without repining the outcome. Those we love die; possessions are stolen or diminished; only goodness remains. Yet, however terrible our suffering, it will not last forever. On that condition is based our peace.

-Sr. Wendy Becket

September 21

It is of absolute necessity for our peace that we surrender ourselves wholly to God. Most people want to do this, but they do not because they are afraid.

-Caryll Houselander

September 22

It is necessary for us to know the littleness of creatures in order to reduce them to nothing in our judgement, so that we may love and have the uncreated God. The reason we are not fully at ease in heart and soul is because we seek rest in these things that are so little and have no rest within them, and pay no attention to our God, who is Almighty, All-wise, All-Good, and the only real rest.

-Julian of Norwich

September 23

Hell is full of the talented, but Heaven of the energetic.

-St. Jane de Chantal

September 24

Virgin most patient, grant us patience amid the trials and sorrows so plentiful in this world, that after the storm of adversities, afflictions and anguish which everywhere assail us, we may with joy reach the land of the living, the haven of our eternal beatitude, there to enjoy the eternal rest prepared for the elect.

-St. Joan of Valois

September 25

There is neither father nor mother nor son, nor any other person whatsoever, who can embrace the object beloved with so great a love as that wherewith God embraces the soul.

-St. Angela of Foligno

November 14

Christ made my soul beautiful with the jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to Him whom the angels serve.

-St. Agnes

November 15

A servant is not pious if she is not industrious.

-St. Zita

November 16

How vital it is for anyone entrusted with the service and care of souls to lead those souls in God's ways and not man's, in the light of God's Spirit and not in the dim twilight of human understanding, and finally that since God made every human being a unique creature, His plans for each soul are as varied and individual as people are.

-St. Jane de Chantal

November 17

We must give God what we have, gladly and with joy.

-St. Elizabeth of Hungary

November 18

We cultivate a very small field for Christ, but we love it, know that God does not require great achievements but a heart that holds nothing back for self.... The truest

crosses are those we do not choose ourselves... He who has Jesus has everything.

-St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

November 19

If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today....

-St. Josephine Bakhita

November 20

What people don't realize is how much religion costs. They think faith is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the cross.

-Flannery O'Connor

November 21

The Church of God needs saints today. This imposes a great responsibility on us. We must become holy, not because we want to feel holy, but because Christ must be able to live His life fully in us.

-Mother Teresa

November 22

I feel that the small things I accomplish [with God's help] do make a difference... I view this life as a pilgrimage, you know, and I strongly believe that we are our brother's keeper. And the more we give of ourselves, the more splendid this pilgrimage becomes.

-Mary MacKinnon

November 23

One great means of preserving a constant peace and tranquility of heart is to receive all things as coming from the hands of God, whatever they may be, and in whatever way they may come.

-St. Dorotheus

November 24

The Lord knows that I am unworthy and I would not dare compare myself with any good woman, even of those living in the world. Yet I think the Enemy himself will not at the Last Judgement accuse me of ever having gone to sleep with bitterness in my heart.

-St. Melania the Younger

November 25

There is no danger if our prayer is without words or consideration, because the good success of prayer depends neither on words nor on study. It depends upon the simple raising of our minds to God, and the more simple and stripped of feeling it is, the surer it is.

-St. Jane de Chantal

November 26

Fear not to ask, for He who has created all beings, already knows the needs of your heart, but ask in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Ask not that the burden be removed, but that your heart and your life will serve humanity as God intended, despite the trial requested of you.

-Margaret A. Davidson

November 27

If we love God and are faithful to Him, we shall be at peace, and this peace shall endure.

-St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

November 28

Love Him totally who gave Himself totally for your love.

-St. Clare of Assisi

November 29

Prayer is like incense rising to heaven and draws exhilarating graces from heaven. It strengthens the strayed soul, giving it back peace and calm.

-St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, MSC aka "Mother Cabrini"

November 30

I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones [for missionary work in a leper colony].... I am not afraid of any disease; hence it would be my greatest delight to minister to the abandoned lepers... Do not laugh at me for being so wholly absorbed in that one wish, one thought, to be a worker in that large field.

-Mother Marianne of Molokai

December 1

The parting of the ways occurs right at the Child's manger; even there, He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. "Follow me," He commands, and anyone who is not for Him is against Him. We too are confronted with these words, and the decision they pose between light and darkness.

-St. Edith Stein

December 2

I want to live in such a way that those I encounter will experience the most impacting introduction of their lives. May they meet Jesus.

-Kathy Troccoli

December 3

Eternal goodness, You want me to gaze into You and see that You love me, to see that You love me gratuitously, so that I may love everyone with the very same love.

-St. Catherine of Siena

December 4

It is so easy to slip into states of anger, pettiness, ungratefulness. The cure? Saint Francis had a ready answer: Pray harder, for prayerfulness leads to gratefulness. Through prayer we return to a state of heartfelt appreciation for life.

-Anne Gordon

December 5

People who repeatedly try to be at one with God, to discover again and again their union with their Maker, find that no matter what happens, they can go through it with grace. Their prayer seems to be a constant immersion, a burning awareness that what's human is holy and that what seems insignificant is bathed in divinity.

-Kathy Coffey

December 6

Love God, serve God, everything is in that.

-St. Clare of Assisi

December 7

He is our clothing. In His love He wraps and holds us. He enfolds us for love and He will never let us go.

-Julian of Norwich

December 8

Mary is not simply a symbol of the Church. She cannot be reduced to an imaginative analogy. We existed in her before we were born. She concretely embodies who we are. She is first. She is primate. She is mother. She is queen even of the Twelve, of the apostles who were

signs and instruments of the Eternal High Priest, whose hands were to hold the sacrifice offered by the Body. She is everything we hope to be – male and female, from the Pope to the homeless who crowd the vestibules of our Church hoping for bit for warmth.

-Sr. Kathryn Hermes

December 9

Peace is one of our deepest needs... We should not try to control our lives. If we are set on doing so, we have abdicated from peace.

-Sr. Wendy Beckett

December 10

I am only a very little soul, who can only offer very little things to Our Lord.

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

December 11

Let us pray that we shall be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas not in the cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart warm with love for one another.

-Mother Teresa

December 12

Observe that we gain more in a single day by trials which come to us from God and our neighbor than we would in ten years by penances and other exercises, which we take up of ourselves.

-St. Teresa of Avila

December 13

In times of exhaustion and depression it is good to read the New Testament to see how often Jesus proclaims that it is little deeds of love for the needy that He appreciates the most and will reward the most.

-Ronda Chervin

December 14

We should go to prayer with deep humility and an awareness of our nothingness. We must invoke the help of the Holy Spirit and that of our good angel, and then remain still during this time in God's presence, full of faith, that He is more in us than we are in ourselves.

-St. Jane de Chantal

December 15

Disorder in society is a result of disorder in the family.

-St. Angela Merici

December 16

Let the desires and prayers of my heart sing jubilantly unto Thee, and Thy gifts of so many graces chant Thy praises. Let the groans and sighs of my sad sojourning on this earth sing jubilantly unto Thee, and let my expectation and patience bless Thee as I await my long deferred hope which is Thyself, O my God.

-St. Gertrude the Great

December 17

Never did material things satisfy my heart, I felt something else, very great in the depths of my heart.

-Servant of God Concepción Cabrera de Armida

December 18

My "me" is God, nor do I know my selfhood save in God.

-St. Catherine of Genoa

December 19

Lord, You know that I want to serve You but am always still hanging on to my work and opinion; that again and again I hastily crawl back into myself in order to consider everything from my point of view: that I do this, order to avoid that, wish this and abhor that. But, in your whole life on earth and especially on the cross, You have shown us what it means to do the will of another.... The Father.

-Adrienne von Speyr

December 20

Take for your motto: Love has conquered me, it alone shall possess my heart.

-St. Margaret Mary

December 21

Don't be discouraged if you do not see the good you do. Most of the time people are helped through obscurity, their hidden sacrifices, instead of the fervor of a clamorous apostolate. Above all, let us try to lay aside our own ego, for this is what ruins everything.

-Ven. Thecla Merlo

December 22

One must see God in everyone.

-St. Catherine Labouré

December 23

Like the Blessed Mother, you and I have a choice. We can say “yes” to God’s request, or we can say “no.” And just like Mary’s response, our answer has eternal consequences, both in our lives and the lives of others. If we say “yes” as Mary did, God will empower us with His Holy Spirit, and we, too will be filled with the life of Christ.

-Johnette Benkovic

December 24

Christ was born not because there was joy in the world, but because there was suffering in it.

-Caryll Houselander

December 25

Lamps of God, on high that glow,

Altar stars of earth below,

Starshine and candlelight,

Light His way this Christmas night!

-Sr. M. Angelita

December 26

God knows our deepest needs. He gave us what is ultimately most important: His own Son. All of us have been rescued from the power of sin and death by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In light of this gift, how can we even for a moment doubt the love of God for us?

-Ann Shields

December 27

I have what God wished me to have, and I want no more.

-St. Germaine Cousin

December 28

Our God is God. All is as He pleases. I am the happiest creature in the thought that not the least thing can happen but by His will or permission; and all for the best.

-St. Elizabeth Seton

December 29

All of us, though, tend to confuse our faith in God with our own self-confidence. When we feel strong and in control, then we can more easily say we trust in God.... Without failure our faith would never mature, for we would build even our own faith on our own strength rather than on God's.

-Ellyn Sanna

December 30

Like St. Teresa, with five pennies and God, I can accomplish many great things.

-St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, MSC aka "Mother Cabrini"

December 31

Is not our faith a sword of strength? I feel it so, my Lord.

Cornelia Connelly

(epilogue-to be continued in the reader's life)