

# **Immaculata University Lenten Reflection Book**



**2009**



**Jesus said to his disciples... pray... give alms... fast... (Matthew 6:1, 2, 5, 16).**

Imagine someone you admire, someone you would want to be like. Now with that person in mind, imagine that you have a limited amount of time with them. What do you do? If you are like me you spend as much time as you can with that individual, or think about them when you cannot be with them. You do the types of things they like to do, and imitate the actions that you admire in them.

The season of Lent that begins today is a forty day chance to become closer to Jesus. We know that His time on earth was limited and His death is approaching. We also know that our busy schedules sometimes limit our relationship with Him. So let us take the next forty days to truly walk with Jesus. Just like the friend we imagined, let us spend time with our Lord in and through prayer, and let us reflect on His Passion frequently. Let us do what He told His Apostles to do; that is, fast and give alms, the traditional marks of the Lenten season. We do these things both because He told us to do them and in imitation of Jesus Himself, who fasted in the desert for forty days, and who gave the greatest sacrifice of His life.

Today, Ash Wednesday we begin Lent by being marked with the Cross on which our Savior died. As we receive our ashes we hear the command to “turn away from sin, and be faithful to the Gospel,” or to, “remember that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.” May we strive to walk each day this Lent strengthening our relationship with Christ, who has redeemed our humanity, and who has given us His example to follow. May the words of that old hymn be our prayer this day.

*Lord,  
You who throughout these forty days  
For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins  
And close by Thee to stay.*

*And through these days of penitence,  
And through Thy passion tide,  
Yea, evermore in life and death,  
Jesus, with us abide.  
Amen.*

**Jim Malinowski  
Theology Major  
Class of 2009**



**Choose life...for that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live on the land which the Lord swore He would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).**

Everyone needs a family. Some of us were fortunate enough to grow up in a loving and caring family. For others, we adopt our family...we choose people to be close to us, and people who support us, make us laugh, give a listening ear, believe in our dreams and create a safe world for us. These are the people we call "family." Family is where the life of the Spirit begins and we get many opportunities to choose how life will unfold.

*Dear Lord,*

*I remember the words of Your promise: "I will give you a land flowing with milk and honey." This is the bountiful and wonderful land You promised to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These fathers belong to my family in Your sight. All You ask is that I choose life, that I make choices which demonstrate that I sincerely want to belong to Your Family. Help me, Loving Lord, to heed Your voice and hold fast to Your word so that Your promise of life might be fulfilled in me.*

**Sister Ann Heath, IHM  
Dean, College of Graduate Studies**



**Why do we fast, and you do not see it? Afflict ourselves and you take no note of it?**  
(Isaiah 58:3)

How many times in our life do we feel just like these words from Isaiah? We feel like God has abandoned us and that no matter how hard we try to please Him, He does not listen to us or even take notice of whether we succeed or fail. Later on in this passage, Isaiah explains that God does not desire fasting and sacrifices of the flesh but rather a purifying of the spirit, a change of heart. Thus God is saying that although fasting is an important aspect of the spiritual life, a more important aspect is drawing closer to Him through prayer and works of charity. He would rather have you spend time with Him in prayer and come to know Him more intimately during this Lenten season than give up your favorite snack and remain the same as before. God wants to come into your life in a new and wonderful way this Lent so that when you do feel alone, abandoned or unloved, you can come to Him and know that He is right beside you, waiting with open arms.

*Heavenly Father, we thank You so much for the gift of Your Son that You sent to die on the cross for our sins so that we might have the opportunity to one day be with You forever in heaven. Help us this Lenten season to be always mindful of Your loving presence which surrounds us each and every day and give us the strength to persevere in our daily struggles to live out the Gospel for Your honor and glory. Amen.*

**Mary Therese Zirolli**  
**Music Education**  
**Class of 2011**



## The Saturday after Ash Wednesday 2009

**If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD (Isaiah 58:13-14a).**

As a little child I remember those sunny days when my father would mow the lawn. I remember that my siblings and I would often follow my father's footsteps as he went back and forth across our lawn. What an image Isaiah portrays here by encouraging us to not let our feet lead us away from God, but to be a faithful follower of God; expressing the obedience and honor due to our Heavenly Father. The greatest is His promise that in following God, in honoring Him on His day and throughout the week, we are blessed to be recipients of His joy. May the joy of the Lord be yours as you participate in this Lenten Season.

*Heavenly Father, guide our feet that we may follow in Your footsteps, bringing pleasure and honor to Your name. May our obedience to Your call bring You delight, and allow us to experience Your joy. Amen.*

**Joshua Hostetter  
Graduate Intern, Counseling Services 08-09**



**The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel** (Mark 1:12-15).

Call it bailout or call it a stimulus package—the season of Lent provides us with an opportunity to regroup, reflect, and repent. Winter begins to melt into spring (with our blessing) and we begin to regroup, whether that involves resuming the long-delayed exercise program that we couldn't start in cold weather or just opening our windows and reorganizing our rooms, our homes. Boots and coats disappear—last year's spring fashions try to accommodate this year's bodies (not an easy job because of that previously mentioned long-delayed exercise program).

Beautiful spring days call us to reflect again on the transforming beauty of the natural cycle. We shake off the winter doldrums along with our winter coats and hoodies. The world around us reminds us that the darkness of long winter days invariably gives way to long summer evenings. Call it God's version of a stimulus package. It just doesn't demand bi-partisan support.

Aside from the stimulus package that Spring provides to our spirits, though, it also brings Lent and the chance to repent once more, just as we have done before, Lent and Lent after Lent. Repent? Not quite as natural or as easy as the regroup and reflect part! Not part of the stimulus package—more likely to be part of our personal bailout (corporate jets aside). We have failed and failed miserably. We just haven't taken the national economy with us.

So we repent, which doesn't need to be as counter-cultural as it first appears. Our media are filled with requests for apologies these days. A-Rod admits to using steroids; Michael Phelps lets loose at a party. The CEOs of failed banks are called to an accounting on Capitol Hill. Perhaps most ludicrously, the media has fallen just short of requiring Barack Obama to apologize to Jessica Simpson for an offhanded remark about her current weight issues.

Our failures haven't hit the headlines yet, but that doesn't mean we're not being called to apologize, to repent—not to the sport world, the entertainment world, or to a senate committee. Lent calls us to us to an inner-world where we can also regroup, reflect, and repent. There's good news waiting---and the next three generations won't be left with the bill.

*Warm our hearts, Lord, with Your love. Illumine the darkness that sometimes fills our souls. Give us the grace, Lord, to face ourselves honestly and to repent for our many failures. Give us the openness to hear and to believe the good news you want to share with us.*

**Sister Elaine Glanz, IHM**  
**Chairperson of the English/Communication Department**



**Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD** (Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18).

Every society, religion, and nation has laws. Laws and regulations hold people accountable for their actions, and they are meant to provide a sense of order and security. Similarly, when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He knew that we all need a set of guidelines for when we get lost along the way. This is not to say that God will punish us for breaking the law, especially when we acknowledge our own faults and ask Him for forgiveness.

In order to more closely follow the Ten Commandments this Lenten season, focus on exemplifying the “Golden Rule,” that is “to treat others as you would like to be treated.” Make the extra effort to actively listen to someone. Tell your friends and family that you love them for no reason at all. Take ten minutes at the end of the day to reflect on what you could have done differently, or ask a person who always sits alone in the cafeteria to join you for lunch. The best way to be at peace with yourself and with God is to treat everyone, even your enemies, as you would want them to treat you. Mother Teresa of Calcutta put it best when she said, “God doesn’t require us to succeed; he only requires that you try.”

*Lord,*

*You gave Moses the Ten Commandments so that we may learn to follow You. Give us the courage to live Your law by infusing it into our every day lives, and extend a gentle hand to welcome us back when we have strayed from the walk with You. Touch us with Your wisdom and teach us to be compassionate to everyone as You are with us. Help us to bring others to You through living out your Word by example. Amen.*

**Lauren A. Raikowski**  
**Resident Assistant**  
**Politics/International Relations Major**  
**Class of 2011**



**As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:10-11).**

Rain and snow, sent from heaven, provide the necessary ingredients in the germination, growth, and production of food for our physical being. This cycle allows the earth to bloom and provides not just for today but seeds for tomorrow. Seed time/harvest remind us of God's love, faithfulness, and provision.

God provides for our spirit as well. He has sent His Holy Word (the Scriptures) to nourish us and help us to grow spiritually, for it is written, *Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God*" (Matt 4:4). Reading the scriptures not only gives us strength for the day but hope for tomorrow – again seed time and harvest.

The Father's ultimate provision for us is His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, sent to all mankind as the *Bread of Life* and the *Word Made Flesh*. The "seed" of the Father sent to earth truly accomplished that which the Lord desired – the reconciliation of God and man through the Son!

*Father, thank You that You are mindful of all of our needs – physical and spiritual. Teach us to be mindful of the same needs of our brothers and sisters and be faithful, as You are faithful, in providing these needs.*

**Elisa Dinger**  
**Manager of Academic Review and Correspondence**



## Wednesday of the First Week of Lent 2009

**God saw the efforts of the people of Nineveh in renouncing their evil behavior. He relented and did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened (Jonah 3:1-10).**

God knows each one of us, and recognizes that we are all sinners. The Church gives us these forty days of Lent, so that we are able to clear our minds and bodies of unwanted debris and toxins. It is never too late to let God know we are sorry for our transgressions, and for our frequent failures to respond to His love and grace.

Many of us choose to do positive things during these days of Lent and that is good. However, there are times, when like the people of Nineveh, it is more virtuous for us to fast and do without some of our everyday comforts.

*Jesus, help each of us to live according to Your will. Though life's journey is often rocky, rough, and uncertain we know the only road to true peace and happiness is the path that You designed for us the day You placed us on this planet.*

**Sister Nancy Coyle, IHM  
Associate Professor Emeritus, Economics**



## Thursday of the First Week of Lent 2009

**For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who asks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened (Matthew 7: 7-12).**

When I was in grade school, a very special Sister once said to me, if we pray in the morning and ask God a question, we will receive signs throughout the day in form of little answers. As I live my life, I try and allow myself to be open to these signs each day. God speaks to me through the smallest of situations and allows me to reflect on my own answers. When I seek, I usually find because first I remember to ask. It may not be the answer I was seeking, but in His wisdom, He helps me see the larger picture of life. So many times we become busy with life and we forget to ask and be open to the unknown. We want complete control over what happens. Let us remember that control can limit and close the door to God's little whispers throughout the day. Try asking and be open to receiving; God will surprise you.

*Lord, inspire me today;  
I seek Your Spirit in every situation I encounter;  
Help me to better understand Your message;  
My heart is open and my soul is ready. Amen.*

**Rhonda Fioresi  
Assistant Director of Commuter and Residence Life**



**And the trees of the field yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase, and they shall be secure in the land (Ezra 34:27).**

During this time of commemorating the sacrifice that Jesus made in the desert we should remember that we are God's stewards of this earth and need to make our own sacrifices that will ensure that His work of "creatio ex nihilo" is respected and cherished.

“And I will make for you a covenant on that day with the beast of the field, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground” (Hosea 2:18).

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

*"For Brother Sun  
Who gives us warmth;  
To Thee, O Lord we give thanks...  
For Sister Moon who lights our night;  
To Thee O Lord we give thanks."*

-St. Francis of Assisi

**Joe Healey  
Philosophy**



**You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey Him** (Deuteronomy 26:17).

This particular passage proclaims an unconditional love and faith in the Lord with absolute loyalty. It is one thing to say that you love the Lord, and it is another thing to dedicate your entire life putting your faith and trust in the Lord; letting Him lead you to the path of righteousness. The Lord has a plan for all of us, and if we follow His ways and obey His good word, we will live in everlasting love for all eternity. We are blessed to already have a foundation laid out by the Lord, so that we too may know the truth and the light. Do as the Lord has done, and you will know true happiness.

*Lord give us the strength to fulfill all Your good deeds, and to live a selfless life helping and loving those around us. May Your light shine down on those who question faith in their hearts, and bring them hope into a life of eternal glory.*

**But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven** (Matthew 5:44-45).

This passage brings to light exactly what is said in the Our Father prayer. “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,” is a key part of the Lord’s decree. In times of betrayal and frustration, we must forgive those who have hurt us and turn the other cheek. If we return our frustration with vengeance, we are no better than those who have hurt us.

*Lord, may You fill the hearts all those who have been tempted by betrayal and anger with love and courage to overcome their obstacles. Let those who hurt others see the ways of Your glory and to one day share eternal life in the kingdom of Heaven.*

**Julian Swiggett**  
**English/Secondary Education**  
**CLL**



**Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John and led them alone up a high mountain privately and he was transfigured before them (Mark 9:2-10).**

This experience of the transfiguration is one in which we would probably say: “You had to be there!” Mountains seem to be the place of encounter. Moses was given the Law on Mt. Sinai; Elijah, the prophet, was given refuge on Mt. Horeb. The Law and the Prophets were central to Judaism and now God reveals Himself. For the apostles, this was a moment of awe. They wanted it to last so Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us build three tents...” They were anxious for the experience to continue but the reality is that these special moments of grace and insight do not last. We are called to return to the ordinary. Jesus leads us down from the mountaintop not because of our shortcomings but because we are called to live and witness to the glory of God where life is occurring. We carry the mountaintop experience through the joys and sorrows of life. So we must ask ourselves when is it the time to “go up” and when is it the time to “come down?” Life is a journey of suffering and exaltation, defeat and victory, weakness and power, death and life. So for those rare moments when we are called to the mountaintop let us open ourselves to something new. Often we are blinded by routine. Other times we may become stuck in ecstasy. Let us resolve to be open to each graced moment.

*Lord, we thank You for our mountaintop experiences. As we descend to the ordinary, help us to boldly proclaim what we know and believe.*

**Sister Catarin P. Conjar, IHM  
International Student Services**



## Monday of the Second Week of Lent 2009

**O Lord, we are shamefaced, like our kings, our princes, and our fathers, for having sinned against You. But Yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness! Yet we rebelled against You (Daniel 9: 8-9).**

We read the good news in this passage - God loves us!

Even though we sin, His compassion is immeasurable. We are shamefaced like those who have gone before us, yet we are marked with the sign of life...eternal life - so there is hope. Like the passage states, many have turned away from God's love throughout history and God was there to grant forgiveness. Through the sacraments and in our prayer life, we can acknowledge and confess our sins and receive the mercy of God. He waits for us to turn back to Him. He has such compassion for His children. Like a patient father...God waits. He is love.

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank You for the sacrifice You made for me on the cross. You suffered, died and rose again to show me how to live my life courageously united with You.*

*When I get lost, You are always there waiting for me to return. You wait for me in the sacraments and in my heart when I pray.*

*Help me to grow closer to You everyday through acts of charity and self-sacrifice. I ask this in Your precious name.*

*Amen.*

**Maureen Scott '05, '08  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of the President**



## Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent 2009

**The greatest one among you must be your servant. Whoever makes himself great will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be great** (Matthew 23:11-12).

How often we think highly of ourselves and expect praise from others. Yet, Jesus tells us that the greatest person is the servant and whoever humbles himself will be great. How different these words are compared to what the world tells us we should be.

On this day let us selflessly give of ourselves to those around us remembering Jesus who sacrificed everything so that we might have the gift of eternal life. And in doing so, we will share His gift of love with each and every person we meet. For when we become the servant to the least our true reward will await us in our heavenly kingdom.

*Lord Jesus, help me to serve You with my whole heart, mind, soul, and strength on this day. Teach me how to sacrifice myself for the good of others – remembering Your words, “whoever humbles himself will be great.” Amen*

**Chrissy Bannon**  
**Financial Aid Assistant and Graduate Psychology Student**  
**Class of 2010**



## Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent

2009

**Jesus said to His apostles “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and hand Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and He will be raised on the third day” (Matthew 20:17-28).**

The language of the Cross is not easy to understand. Our Lord spoke to His disciples often about what His mission was and how He would suffer. However, the apostles did not always grasp the Lord’s words and their meanings. St. Luke wrote in his Gospel (Luke 18:34) that when Jesus spoke of His passion, “They understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.”

Jerusalem was on a mountain and the apostles and Jesus would have to travel up to the place of Jesus’ death and suffering. Traveling to their leader’s death made no sense to the disciples. The apostles were simple men, much like each of us today. We see the world through human eyes and human ideals. Who in their right mind travels with their leader to witness his or her suffering and death? What leader can tell his or her followers what is going to happen? Taking all of this into consideration it is not hard to feel the confusion and mixed emotions that must have existed among the apostles. They did not have a real sense of what was happening or what was going to happen, but the Lord trusted these ordinary guys to be the caretakers of the early Church.

We are that Church today and the question begs, “Can we drink from the cup?” Does our life require the comfortable and the easy way? Can we walk the way of the Cross? Lent is a time to reflect and answer these questions.

*Father, harden not our hearts to Your ways and Your words. Make our ears attentive to Your words. Open our minds and hearts to embrace Your paths of service and suffering. Allow these forty days of Lent to be a true preparation to receive You, in all Your glory, on Easter Morning. We ask this, as we do all good things, in Your name. Amen*

**Theresa M. Grentz ‘74**  
**Vice President for University Advancement**



**Thursday of the  
Second Week of Lent**

**2009**

**Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord** (Jeremiah 17:5-10).

There are many times through out our lives when it is easy to place our trust in something other than God whether it is money, people, jobs or other things. It is important to remember these things cannot bring lasting happiness. God alone is the source of joy. The scripture today says "He is like a tree planted beside the water, which stretches out its roots to the stream: It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit." Instead of turning to those things which can never truly fill us, we must turn to God, the source of all life and nourishment. The Lord knows each one of us so well, for He says "I, the LORD, alone probe the mind and test the heart." Why would we not trust in Him for everything? He knows our struggles, our desires, and our needs. He knows what makes us happy and asks to bring us what we are truly longing for in the depths of our heart. We must trust in Him and place all our hope in His goodness.

*Lord, during this Lenten season, help us to remember that You alone can fill our heart's every desire. Help us to trust You and surrender our hearts and lives to You throughout these forty days as Jesus did in the desert so long ago. Amen*

**Lauren Welsh  
English/Theology/Secondary Ed.  
Class of 2011**



**And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him...And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colors that was on him. And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it (Genesis 37:18; 37:23-24).**

Joseph's brothers struggled with one the seven deadly sins, envy. Envy starts with coveting, then slides into jealousy which turns into contempt and finally to malice. Unchecked envy leads to hatred. When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they immediately plotted to kill him. Their hatred simmered in their hearts.

Envy, covetousness, jealousy, and ultimately malice are all too prevalent in our own culture today. Falling into this temptation is as easy as turning on the TV. It is all around us. We must make a conscious effort to keep our focus on Christ. Envy destroys, but Christ gives life.

*Heavenly Father, bless and protect my eyes and ears from the temptation of envy. Bless me with the grace to love my brothers, my neighbors, my colleagues, my friends and those I don't know but that You have placed in my daily path.*

**Maria Shultz**  
**Secretary, College of Lifelong Learning**



## Saturday of the Second Week of Lent

2009

**“My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found”**(Luke 15:31-32).

There are many times in life when we become jealous, especially of those who seem undeserving in comparison to ourselves. We sometimes become angry and bitter toward these people, as well as those who have praised them. However, despite the difficulty behind this task, God wishes for us not to be jealous, but to rejoice for him/her.

Consider what would happen if you were on a sports team, and due to the hard work you have done since the start of the season, you maintain a starting position. As time progresses, however, one of your teammates begins to train harder, throwing aside his/her previously lazy attitude, and, as a result, he/she begins to receive an equal share of playing time as you. Would you not feel angered or betrayed by your coach for awarding him/her despite that person's previous laziness? Would you not be scornful and frustrated toward your teammate?

As hard as it may be, God calls us to rejoice for those who may have stepped up their game, whether it be in regard to a sport, a class, a club, a family, religious practices, or any other circumstance in life. In “The Parable of the Lost Son,” it is easy for us to relate to the older brother who becomes angered at his father's acceptance of his prodigious brother. However, just as Jesus rejoices over one sinner who repents, we too must learn to rejoice over those who seem unjustly celebrated.

*Dear God, please forgive us for the times we have looked jealously upon others. Please help us to learn from the example set by Your Son, Jesus Christ, who asks us to rejoice for those who have returned to the path from which we have never strayed. Please help us to look lovingly on those who were once lost, and, even more so, guide us to help others who may still be wandering. Humble us, Lord, and help us to realize that at some point, we are all the prodigal son. Thank you for your forgiveness, your guidance, and your strength. Amen.*

**Holly Miara  
Nutrition Major  
Class of 2011**



**Exodus 20:1 – 17**

**1 Cor 1:22-25**

**John 2: 13 – 15**

Today's richly significant readings invite each of us to "get back to basics." For with the **first commandment**, "I am the Lord, your God. Thou shalt not have other gods besides me," the Lord is providing us the key wisdom we need to set our life on solid rock. This truth is so important the Jesus re-affirms it in His own preaching: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and **first commandment**" (Matt 22:37). This **first commandment's** purpose is to pave the way for a profound trust in the one and only God who wishes us to know Him as a loving Father and to call Him by that name. And He supplies the motivation for trustful obedience by asking us to remember His goodness, remember that He "brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery." This faith, rooted in our knowledge of His compassionate care, fires our desire to fulfill this first command.

During this next week of Lent, let us keep this **first commandment** by beginning each day in a spirit of praise! Yes, (after those first few moments of the struggle to "rise from sleep!") let's say (or sing??): "*Because Your love is better than life, my lips will glorify You. I will praise you as long as I live, and in Your name I will lift up my hands*" (Psalm 63:3-4).

**Sister J. Sheila Galligan, IHM**  
**Professor of Theology**



## Monday of the Third Week of Lent 2009

**And [Jesus] went on, “I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country” (Luke 4: 24-25).**

Just as Naaman initially rejected Elisha’s advice to cleanse himself seven times in the river Jordan (2 Kgs. 5: 1-15), so, too, those in the Temple reacted with hostility to Jesus reminding them that the Syrian, Naaman, was cured while Israelites suffered.

This passage suggests that we sometimes fail to hear that which we really need to hear. Vanity, ego, reputation—much may inhibit our listening to the benevolent message that God’s mercy is for everyone—even those who may appear to us to be least “deserving.” We may even, like those in the Temple, respond violently to such a message, to try and seal the lips of the messenger.

*During this Season, help us to be acutely aware of the message of humanity and not take offense at the messenger because he/she is not whom we expected, or because his/her manner offends us. Open our ears and our hearts. And extend Your Grace to those who struggle daily, still, especially in the Middle East. Amen.*

**Melanie Kisthardt**  
**Assistant Professor, English/Communications Department**



**Then the master called the servant in. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?” (Matthew 18:32-33)**

Throughout our whole lives, there will be countless times when we will come in contact with the act of forgiveness. Whether it is giving the gift or receiving it, we must keep in mind Matthew 18:32-33. When we come to God asking for forgiveness for the sins we have committed, He is so quick to forgive. It is important that we remember this when others go against us. How else could we expect the Lord to forgive us, if we do not have the gift ourselves?

Forgiveness takes a lot of courage, especially when we have been deeply hurt. But because we were made in the image of God, that courage already lives deep within us. Even though what we owe to Christ is far more than what any of us could ever repay, it begins with how we treat each other. The servant in this story begged God for His forgiveness for not being able to pay back his great debt, and he was granted exactly that. However, when one of his fellow servants owed him a much smaller debt, he immediately had the man put in prison. The Lord could have very easily not forgiven the unmerciful servant; but our God is much greater than that.

Throughout this Lenten season, let us take time out of our busy days to reflect upon all the many times God has forgiven us for our sins. Also, let us be reminded of those times when others come to us asking for forgiveness and how quickly Christ would forgive them. When we open our minds and our hearts to the power of forgiveness, not only will we live in peace with each other, but also with the Almighty God, with whom many great things are possible.

*Dear Lord, I pray that during this Lenten season each one of us here at Immaculata University and all those across the world will find the strength for forgiveness through You and use that strength continually in our lives. We know and understand that it can be very challenging to forgive those who hurt us, but with Your guidance, it is very much possible. We also thank You, Lord for teaching us to be so forgiving and ask that You continue to send your guidance for those who need it. We ask this, as we ask for all great things, through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Jamie Wojcik  
Early Childhood Education  
Class of 2010**



**Wednesday of the  
Third Week of Lent**

**2009**

**Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:17-19).**

Although it may seem like a close friend of yours, named Jesus, hasn't been in touch with you in a while, He actually does want to be an essential part of your life. Lent is a splendidly supreme period in our liturgical year where we are encouraged to renew ourselves in the mercy of God and wallop away those things that endanger our relationship with Him. By taking on God's challenge to obey and teach His commandments, one becomes a bold witness of God's love among the Immaculata community.

*Dear Lord, we know You came to save us from our sins and to renew us in Your love. Help us to realize, although we are guilty of sin, You are always ready to forgive. During this time of Lent, give us the courage to be a strong example and take on the duty of forgiving each other and ourselves. Your mercy enables us to live as a part of Your heavenly kingdom.*

**William McCann  
Psychology/Spanish  
Class of 2012**



## Thursday of the Third Week of Lent 2009

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home (Matthew 1:18-24).

Lent is the season when we recall the time that Christ spent wandering in the desert, fasting, and being tempted, before beginning His ministry. It is fitting in this season for us to pause today and consider the example of Saint Joseph, who was also tempted and who also spent time in the desert, while fulfilling his role as Christ's protector.

Upon discovering that Mary was with Child but not knowing that it was by the Holy Spirit, Joseph briefly considered (because of temptation, perhaps?) quietly divorcing Mary. But an angel appeared to him while he was sleeping and reassured him. When he awoke, he did as he had been commanded.

After Christ was born, Joseph was again commanded by an angel, this time to take Mary and the Child, and flee from the wrath of Herod, into the desert and on to Egypt, there to remain until the angel would tell him to return. When it was safe, the angel told Joseph to leave Egypt and take Mary and the Child back to Nazareth and to home.

Joseph would be called on again to travel, and to worry, in order to protect our Lord. This time it would be to search with Mary for the missing twelve-year-old Savior, eventually finding Him in the Temple.

So we see in the life of Saint Joseph an example for us to follow in our own search for Christ. Joseph is a role model for perseverance and endurance as we traverse the desert and pray for a safe return.

*Happy Feast Day, Saint Joseph! Please keep us in your prayers. Pray that we may persevere in times of temptation and doubt. Pray that we may awaken and do as God commands us. Pray that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit as we travel through the desert, pray that we may return safely to Nazareth, and pray that our search for Jesus will end in our finding Him. Amen*

**Joseph Pugh**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Business, Accounting, and Economics**



**Friday of the Third Week of Lent**

**2009**

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these (Mark12: 30-32).**

Our lesson today reminds us again of God's love and Jesus' desire that we love one another as we are loved. On this journey, we are learning why this is a challenge for us. We are experiencing our human weaknesses and practicing ways to be free, to open our hearts more fully to God's love and to give ourselves in fidelity every day.

*God of Mercy, I feel my heart overflowing with Your tenderness. I sense Your loving touch deep within my soul. I ask for Your help in my weakness that I might be faithful to Your Word and I am so grateful that Your mercy for my failings is as strong as Your unbounded love for me.*

*Fill our hearts with Your love.*

**Julia Jablonski  
Business Administration  
Class of 2009**



## Saturday of the Third Week of Lent 2009

**“Oh, God, be merciful to me a sinner...” “I tell you...everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and everyone who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18: 11b, 14).**

What a difference there is between those of us who come to worship God. Some give themselves a share in the glory they give God by finding nothing wrong with their daily routines, as the Pharisee did in the Gospel. Others deny themselves any such glory and give it all to God, as we see done by the tax collector. Why do we focus on the wrongs of others and make our mistakes seem insignificant? We should spend time reflecting on our own personal wrongs against God, ourselves, and others so we may truly feel the weight of our own sins. Our focus should be on personal mistakes. And we should let others focus on their own mistakes. Only when we feel the weight of our wrongdoings will the words Jesus said in this Gospel reading truly have an effect on our spirits.

*Lord Jesus, I apologize wholeheartedly for disregarding my sins, and for leaving any promise I made to You unfulfilled. My desire is to surrender myself to the will of God the Father entirely. Help me to see the sins I have committed and to feel the true weight of them. Teach me how to humble myself before the Father so sincerely that I may lay my iniquities before Him. Oh my Jesus, be with me at the hour of my need. Oh my God, be merciful to me a sinner. Amen.*

**Denise Rose  
Music Education  
Class of 2012**



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

2009

**...that He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:7-9).**

These lines from Scripture remind us that God always wants to pour out His graces and blessings on us. We know that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for our sins so that we can enter heaven. However, we also need to remember that He desires to help us each day. He wants us to believe in Him and trust in Him so that He can help us to be the persons He created us to be. As St. Paul tells us, this is not our doing but is pure gift. God really wants to be involved in our lives. Because of His great love for us, He really wants us to be part of His Kingdom. As we continue our journey, through this Lenten season, let us try to be open to God's love and invite Him to share in our everyday life and ask Him to help us with all of our concerns.

*Eternal Father, I thank You for Your constant love and care. Help me to be open to Your grace and to trust that You are always with me, helping me in all of my needs. Amen.*

**Sister Alice Schaebler, IHM  
Reference Librarian, Gabriele Library**



## Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent 2009

**So Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe” (John 4:48).**

In John 4:43-54, a royal official’s son was very ill and near death, and the man begged Jesus to heal him, but Jesus just told the man to return home; his son would live. The man put his trust in the word Jesus spoke to him, and started for home. On his way he was greeted with news that his son had shown improvement. When the man was told the time his son was healed, he realized it was the same time that Jesus told him his son would live.

“The man put his trust in the word Jesus spoke to him, and started for home.” This phrase reminds us that we must put our trust in Jesus and everything will be fine. The man in this passage trusted Jesus for such an important petition, the life or death of his son. It empowers us to put our trust in the Lord for our every petition, for if we trust in Him we will LIVE!

**Rena Padamonsky**

**Biology**

**Class of 2010**



...it had become a river that could not be crossed except by swimming. He asked me "Have you seen this, son of man?" (Ezekiel 47: 5-6).

When our Lord asks the man if he wishes to be well, the man's answer is one of hopelessness. He no longer believes that he can be healed, for he cannot reach the waters of the pool, which were thought to bring an end to suffering. Christ's word brings the man to his feet, restores his strength, and gives him new life. God's power and love is the literal translation of the mighty river that Ezekiel envisioned giving life to all things along its banks. Just as the river turns salt water into fresh water, so, too, does Christ's word turn our tepid spirits into zealous souls. Many of us today are like the paralyzed man; some of us indeed, do not even want to be cured, because doing so requires us to obey God's command to "Rise...and walk." It takes action and faith on our part to be healed. When we open ourselves up to Christ's word and **obey it**, we are cured; we become the trees on the banks of the river; our fruit and leaves the results of living a life devoted to Christ. However, we must not expect to keep such treasures to ourselves. Our fruits are to be shown and given to others, without expecting **anything** back, so that the world may bear witness to the glory and goodness of the Lord.

*Lord, may we hear and respond to Your voice that heals our souls.*

*Give us the courage to stand and walk and not be afraid of those who may stand against us. May we walk in Your light and be guided by Your Most Sacred Heart so that, through us, You may call others to Yourself. Amen.*

**Matthew Hoffmann**  
**Theology Major**  
**Class of 2011**



## Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent

2009

### The Annunciation

**For nothing will be impossible with God** (Luke 1:37).

Yes, as difficult as it is to comprehend sometimes, all things are possible with God. We all know the story of Gabriel announcing to Mary that she will conceive and bear a son, even though she does not know man; and Mary, being a faith filled servant accepted this call from the Lord. My heart and mind immediately recognize the impossible that God made happen in this situation: Mary, a virgin conceiving a child. However, when I examine deeper in my heart, I realize there is another miracle taking place, and that is Mary's response.

This passage says **with God**. Mary's "yes" to God's call was not easy. She certainly had to have many questions, concerns, and worries, but because she was **with God** she said yes. It was her faith that exclaimed, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord; may it be done to me according to Your Word." She did not respond alone, it was **with God**. Through faith and love she exemplified that "nothing will be impossible **with God**."

Mary's "yes" would have been impossible **without God**. As a result of her faith filled response, God's Promise to Isaiah was fulfilled.

*Mary, our Mother, please be with us and help us to know through your example and choices that nothing will be impossible **with God**. You showed us the way by saying yes and made a most difficult decision that you knew would result in much ridicule, pain, and suffering, but **with God** you taught us nothing will be impossible to endure. Please be with us and through your intercession help us to say yes to God even when we know it may result in ridicule, pain, or suffering. We ask this through Your Son, the most Holy Jesus. Amen.*

**Jessica Morrell**  
Assistant Director, Campus Ministry



## Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent 2009

**With that, the Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once to your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, for they have become depraved. They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them, making for themselves a molten calf and worshipping it” (Exodus 32:7-8).**

This Scripture message talks about our nature as humans to commit sins and how everyone is guilty of going against God’s Word at some point. This seems appropriate for the Lenten season during which we are supposed to reflect on who we are as Christians and thank God for freeing us from the wrongdoings we’ve committed in spite of His presence in our lives.

*Thank you, Lord, for saving us from ourselves and taking our lives into Your Hands. Without You our souls would be lost forever in the darkness of our transgressions and instead Your redemptive light has shined on us to make sure we are with You forever.*

**How can you believe when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the one and only God? (John 37:44)**

This section points out the importance of listening to God’s Word alone and taking the time to interpret what His Words mean in our individual lives. In cases where we can become wrapped up in what we think God might mean or how others have interpreted what He is saying, we lose the real meaning behind what God is teaching us. John points out how God is the only Being we should be taking testimony from and without His guidance, humans on earth are truly lost. I think in situations where we sometimes become lost within ourselves or our own situations, God is there waiting for us to listen and take in what He wants us to know. If His followers could just take better advantage of this, we would slow down our everyday routines and pay attention to the direction in which He is trying so hard to lead us.

*God, as your followers may we put aside the time to listen to Your Word and be patient with the answers You give us. Thank You for the role model You have given us in Jesus. Through His example, may we better understand our own roles in transforming the world that You intended.*

**Alexandra Faljean  
English/Communications  
Class of 2011**



## Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent 2009

**You know Me and also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true. I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent me (John 7: 28-29).**

Karl Rahner states, "Mystery is that which is infinitely knowable." Throughout this Lenten season we immerse ourselves deeper into the mystery of Christ's life, death and resurrection, continually struggling to grasp that which is always and ever more. We must come to realize it is impossible for us to fully understand the complexities of our God. Although this is a disconcerting thought, we may be comforted in coming to know this God through the beauty of His creation. It is also important to remain steadfast in our faith, and remember that there will come a time when our own hour has come, and the unknown will be revealed to us. As the end of this Lenten journey approaches, we must prepare for the beginning of a new phase in our exploration of this eternal mystery, with open hearts and open minds.

*Almighty Conqueror of life and death, be with us and strengthen us through our sacrifices on this ultimate journey to You. Help us to grow in Your love as we pray for others and ourselves. We ask You this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**Erin Rogers  
Mathematics/Education Major  
Class of 2010**



## Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent 2009

**For to you have I committed my cause** (Jeremiah 11:20).

In this week's reading of Jeremiah, we see a young man, a prophet, who is tested against the evils of the Houses of Judah and Israel. Consumed by the iniquities of the cult of Baal, the people betrayed God. Jeremiah, however, is called by God to preach to these people, and to commit his very life, his cause, to God. This Lenten season, as we prepare to encounter the Passion, the ultimate sacrifice of the ages, we should learn to commit our cause, or our lives, to Christ. As Jeremiah was forced to do, we must recognize and encounter sin, especially within ourselves. Only then will we learn how to truly commit our lives to Christ, which is the way that leads to eternal life.

*Lord, give us the same perseverance, strength, courage, and wisdom, You gave Jeremiah, to encounter and battle evil, especially in recognizing our own failures and sins. Teach us to repent of our iniquities, and give us the strength to avoid separating ourselves from You in the future. Guide us in this great season, so that we prepare for and recognize with all our hearts, souls, and minds, Your supreme act of love on the Cross, and the greatest act of hope, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Matt Poole**  
**History Major**  
**Class of 2011**



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

2009

Today's readings are setting the scene for the last two weeks of Lent. In pre-Vatican II liturgy, this Sunday was called Passion Sunday. In those days, the statues were draped in purple – a somber reminder of the fact that we were moving closer to the time when we recalled Christ's passion and all that He suffered for us. In all three of today's reading we hear of the great love Jesus has for us. Jeremiah (31:34) tells us **“All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evil-doing and remember their sins no more.”** Powerful words to hear when we think about our Lenten resolutions, and how much we may have faltered in carrying them out! In Hebrews (5:8) we read **“Son, though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered and ... He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.”** Finally, John's Gospel reminds us that Christ said **“And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself”** (John 12:32). When we think about these words, we come to know that Christ truly came to save us, and will not abandon us even though we are weak. We rely on His strength to keep us close to Him so that one day, we will be drawn to Him.

*Passion of Christ, strengthen me. I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.*

**Sister Anne Marie Burton, IHM  
Education Department**



**John 8: 1-11**

There are two lines of interest to me.

**“If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone...”** The first line teaches us that we are not to judge others but rather look to and take care of our own lives.

**“Go now and leave your life of sin...”** The second line (and more important line for me) tells us that after we look at our own lives that we should make every effort to change our lives for the better.

I can't think of a more important message for Lent than to try to use these forty days to become a better person.

*Dear Jesus,, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy Presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine so to shine as to be a light to others.*

Prayer of Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

**Bill Patzig NCC, LPC  
Counselor, Bruder Center**





**Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent**

**2009**

**So Jesus said [to them], “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The One who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to Him” (John 8:28-29).**

During the Lenten Season, we must especially act towards enhancing ourselves spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. These forty days of cleansing are important in enriching our lives so that we may further our religious education. Jesus stated that He does nothing on His own and only does and says what the Father, God, has taught Him. We relate to this when we obey our parents and apply the education we receive from them to our personal decisions. Throughout this Lent, we must improve upon ourselves using what we have learned from our parents and from Jesus. God has given our parents to us to look over us and to guide us and teach us. They always wish us well and our actions reflect their significance to us. Although they are not always physically with us, our parents are always spiritually, mentally, and emotionally present. We incorporate, into our own lives, the values and beliefs they have established from the beginning. Similarly, Jesus said that His Father has never left Him alone because He always does what is pleasing to God. Our parents guide us in strengthening ourselves in our own beliefs, values, and actions. In turn, we honor them by doing what is right. Lent is a particularly essential time for this comprehension and growth to occur.

*God Almighty,*

*Thank You for guiding me to have complete faith in You. I pray for the courage to welcome necessary change this Lenten season and throughout the year. Please help me to clear my mind and heart so that I may enhance myself according to Your Will. Grant my parents the necessary graces and grant me the faith to trust their direction. Thank You Lord. Amen.*

**Colleen Hamilton ☺  
Vice President of SAiU  
International Business French Major  
Class of 2010**



**Wednesday of the  
Fifth Week of Lent**

**2009**

**If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O King, may he save us! But even if he will not, know, O King, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up (Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92).**

King Nebuchadnezzar's three subjects courageously demonstrated their faith under the most extreme circumstances. Could we do the same if called upon? Indeed, how often do the basic sacrifices of Lent - prayer, fasting, and almsgiving - become too much for us? This Lenten season, let us instead sacrifice joyfully and faithfully - so the world will say as Nebuchadnezzar said: "There is no other God who can rescue like this."

*Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that our Lenten sacrifices give us the courage to defend You against the Nebuchadnezzars of our day, prompting them to know You as the One True God.*

**James Tinneney  
Friend of the University**



**Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent 2009**

**I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you (Genesis 17:7).**

In today's readings, Abraham, the patriarch of the three monotheistic religions, establishes a covenant with God the Father. God makes Abraham the "Father of All Nations" and makes a promise to him and all of his descendants. Jesus Christ seals this covenant, made with Abraham, by coming down to earth in human form and saving us all from sin. While these events occurred thousands of years ago, God's covenant with His people, including us, still resonates in our daily lives through the Holy Spirit. It is our duty to keep this covenant holy and present in our life. Just as Abraham did, God wants us to follow His Word and keep His Covenant so that, as Jesus said in the Gospel, that we may share eternal life in Heaven.

*Father, I pray that I can overcome all of the hardships and temptations in my life in order to keep Your Covenant just as Abraham did many years ago. Grow in Your people a strong will to act by example and spread the Good News of Your glory to everyone we meet. Help me to make this covenant come alive every day through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. I ask this in Your Name. Amen.*

**Paul McAndrew  
History Major  
Class of 2010**



**Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent**

**2009**

**But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion...O LORD of hosts...to You I have entrusted my cause (Jeremiah 20:10- 13).**

Jeremiah is lamenting because deception and sorrow have overwhelmed him. He is at the point of despair, yet he trusts in the LORD. He states his turmoil, he knows friends are watching for any misstep, and he fears they will trap him and take vengeance on him. But, we also see hope, through his suffering he knows deep down the LORD is with him. This might be a good time to look at our fears and consider turning all things over to our LORD.

*LORD, God, at times we allow life to overwhelm us. May we learn to trust You in the events, circumstances, and encounters of our days. May we walk in confidence knowing that You are with us like a "mighty champion." We are not alone, do not let us forget. We ask this in heartfelt love and trust. Amen.*

**Sister Mary Henrich, IHM  
Theology Department**



**Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent**

**2009**

**“Here is this man working all these signs,” they said, “and what action are we taking?”** (John 11:47)

The Pharisees spoke these words out of fear of the wonders Jesus was performing. He was turning their ordered world upside down. Often, we may turn from God out of fear and doubt. We pray, and the answer we think should be given does not come. We want God to do as we tell Him, forgetting that He who sees all and loves us also knows infinitely better than we ever could what will be best for us. Signs of God’s presence and power are all around us. What action are we taking?

*This Lenten season, empower me to do Your will, Lord. Let me be a sign to the world of Your loving power. Strengthen me to be an answer to prayer for those around me. Breathe Your life into me that I take action for You.*

**Sarah McClean**  
**English/Secondary Education**  
**Class of 2009**



**The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. Morning after morning He awakens my ear to listen like one being taught (Isaiah 50:4).**

The book of Isaiah contrasts *pride* and *servanthood*. In the first part of the book, pride interferes with the Israelites relationship with God; exemplified by Israel's kings who sought security in money and military might. In the second part of Isaiah the illusions of pride disappear, as the people of Israel find themselves in exile awaiting liberation. Isaiah's message to them is that a new life can be theirs if they learn to be servants of God. What Isaiah reveals to us, we see reflected in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus this Holy Week.

The Servant of God is one who challenges people to respond to the call of faith. He/she is one who attests to his/her own devotion to God by speaking His commands with "*a well-trained tongue*" received "morning after morning." The Servant of God finds meaning in hardships endured. Instead of feeling abandoned by God, the Servant sees it as a time of God's teaching. The Servant in Isaiah speaks to us today for we, too, must be a people who are not defeated by hardships endured; but, with "faces set like flint" have determination against pride and selfishness.

*Let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.*

*Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey. We are brothers on the road.*

*We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. Amen.*

*The Servant Song by Richard Gillard*

**Dr. Thomas O'Brien**

**Assistant Dean, College of Graduate Studies**



## Monday of Holy Week

2009

**Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one of His disciples, and the one who would betray Him, said, “Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days’ wages and given to the poor?” (John 12: 3-5).**

I wonder why Judas was so intent on criticizing Mary for the act of love she was showing to Jesus. Was it really because he felt the poor could be better served by selling the perfumed oil or was it because Mary’s generosity made his love of Jesus seem paltry?

Now I fast forward and find myself wondering about those times and places in my life when I have attempted to block others from making an extravagant return to God because I did not think to do it first.

As we step into Holy Week, we must be prepared to participate ever more deeply in the agony of our Lord’s sacrificial death.

*Lord, Jesus, how do I anoint Your feet? Can I walk the extra mile with You as You journey to Golgotha? I know I want to spend this Holy Week with You but I get distracted so easily. In those moments of distraction, may I be reminded of Mary’s gesture of love that prepared You for Your ultimate sacrifice. Amen.*

**Sister Cathy Nally, IHM  
Director of Mission and Ministry**



**Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done according to Your Word**  
(Luke 1:37).

**Here am I, Lord; I come to do Your Will** (Psalm 40).

“handmaid” – one who keeps her eyes on the hands of her mistress  
– one who knows what the hands are saying

Do I keep my eyes on the Hands of the Lord as He works in mysterious ways:

- through people I meet on a daily basis?
- through joys and sorrows?
- through challenges that I am asked to bear?
  - illness (in self and in others)?
  - death?
  - pink slips and / or financial woes?

Do I ponder on what the Lord asks and ask intelligent questions to clarify the situation?

“fiat” – let it be done

Am I willing and able to answer in the words of Our Lady and the Psalmist?

“May it be done according to Your Word” (Luke 1:37).

“Here am I, Lord, I come to do Your Will” (Psalm 40).

*Lord, please help me to keep my eyes on Your Hands so that I can truly be ready to say  
“fiat” to all that You ask of me.*

**Sister Denise M. Mollica, IHM**  
**Fashion-Family & Consumer Sciences Department**



**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**Behold the Lord God helps me** (Isaiah 50:9).

In today's readings we see betrayal and absolution. God so loved us that He was betrayed and that He absolved his betrayer, Judas. However, Jesus, knowing that there was a purpose for these last days of His life, would rather be betrayed for us than give up on us.

Many times in our life we are faced with vindication and sometimes betrayal; however, the words of the Lord's Prayer remind us that we forgive those who trespass against us. This is not an easy thing to do, but we must remember that giving of one's life like our Savior did was not easy, but he did so because of His love for us. We need to hold true to "love thy neighbor as thyself," especially in these times of trouble in our world.

Let us not forget to forgive and be forgiven.

And so we pray:

*God our Father, Creator of all humankind, give me the strength to love my neighbor as myself even in difficult times. Give me the wisdom to forgive and courage to ask for absolution so that Your Will can be done.*

*Our Father who art in heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name  
Thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On Earth as it is in Heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil*

*For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.  
Amen*

**Dr. Stephen J. Pugliese  
Vice President for Student Affairs**



**When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” He asked them. “You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them” (John 13:13-17).**

Scripture Readings for Holy Thursday are replete with sacred messages -- fodder for meditation, and lessons for gratitude and love.

On that night, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). This gift alone provides spiritual sustenance for a lifetime. We show our gratitude by participating at Mass often, and bringing the overwhelming love we experience to others.

The other noteworthy event: Jesus washed the feet of His apostles. How does this profound act of humiliation fit into the world of 2009? The apostles were different. They held disparate philosophies about how and whom to serve. Their love for Jesus was unquestionable but for each other, who knows? But Jesus treated them the same; extending selfless service, He gave them individual, extraordinary attention and care. *Yes, washing feet was the custom then, but Jesus did not have to be the one to do it!*

What does this mean for you and me? Here it is! **Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.** Of course, we cannot do that – precisely! But we can address all whom we know and meet and all whom we serve... We can treat everyone the same, kindly. We can give individual attention, thoughtfully. We can extend sincerity and care, compassionately. These constructs will take the character and shape of our own lives, in our own spheres. The bottom line is, we need to emulate Jesus; **Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.** Yes, Lord, we want to be blessed, we want to be holy.

No wonder the Church encourages quiet time during the Triduum to contemplate such wonderful acts of love.

*With Your example and Your help, Jesus, I can bear the challenges of humble service in this time. Help me, my Lord and my Teacher, to do what You did, for I truly want to live a life of love.*

**Sister Jane Ann Molinaro, IHM**



Friday hangs  
in weighted silence that,  
in spite of sunlight,  
will not rise...yet.

Suspended,  
unwilling to watch,  
unable to look away,  
we mesh with the mystery and  
ponder pain's price.

We are not without Promise;  
eventually, it will be enough

But for a few hours  
we have need to  
stretch across the dead wood loneliness  
of our hearts and

hang...

healing, with Him.

**Sister Marcille McEntee, IHM**



**Holy Saturday**

**2009**

**Something strange is happening- there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness** (Office of the Readings for Holy Saturday).

On Holy Saturday, we are called to reflect on what it means to live between the already and the not yet, between “Christ has died” and “Christ is risen,” without yet knowing or even hoping that Christ is going to rise. How do we live when everything that makes sense to us disappears, when everything we know is turned upside down? What do we do, when friends and loved ones die, when we are broken, and when God seems so far away and there seems as though we are left with nothing but to sit in silence and contemplate that brokenness. Do we do as Judas, who killed himself in great sorrow and despair, or do we do as Mary Magdalene who set out in her great sorrow to visit the grave of Jesus and witness the Resurrection? That is the question of this day and it does indeed seem that something strange is happening.

*Father, on this day we ask, perhaps more than any other, that You strengthen our faith in Your promise to be with us always. In our most desolate times we ask that You give us the grace to never doubt that great promise and the resolve to always bring ourselves to You in the hope of the new day that You will bring to us.*

**Fr. Joseph L. Maloney**  
**Chaplain and Associate Director of Campus Ministry**



## Easter Sunday

2009

When we were children, or even as young adults, Easter Sunday, the Feast of the Resurrection, was anticipated somewhat like Springtime Christmas. The joy of receiving Easter baskets, new clothes, dyed eggs, and chocolate bunnies was accompanied by church visits, sacred music, and processions. These last were but backdrops to the fun of anticipating some vacation days and the promise of summer.

As we grew older, we began to experience through wider relationships, and education, a deeper meaning of life, and to understand more fully the mystery of life, a life that includes absolutely, the greater mystery of death.

Many of us in the process of living had fallen in love with the books, reading, and movies, and through these artists, whose depths of facts and realities, sought to seek the meaning of death; to seek what it is; for wisdom reminds us that “something is better than nothing!”

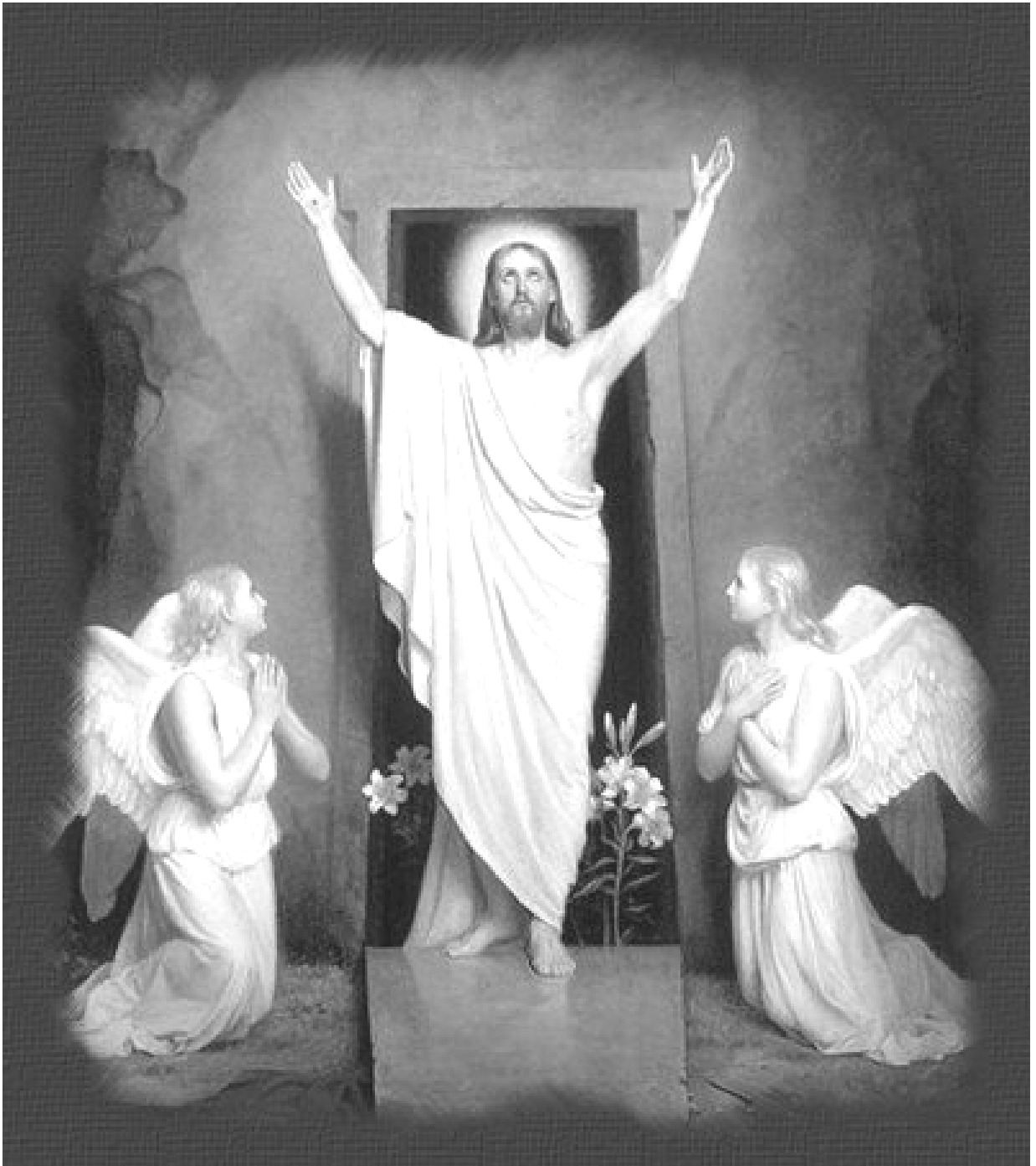
One poet, in my experience, Gerard Manley Hopkins – in one at least of many great poems - story of THE WRECK OF DEUTSCHLAND – faced for him, the fact of death. Through the shipwreck of the vessel, and the implied martyrdom of the casualties that included five Franciscan sisters, he introduces one of whom prays aloud, welcoming the Christ she has long lived for and for whom she hopes to die. Knowing the reality of her death, the boundary we all must cross, she sees it through to its ultimate meaning; life forever in Christ.

In this reading, we learn that the Feast of the Resurrection, Easter Sunday, is a celebration of faith and hope: a belief in a new incredibly fulfilled life in God.

Hopkins, inspired by the meaning of this boundary and its path to new life, prays with joy: “Let him Easter in us; be a daystar to the dimness of us; be a crimson cressed east.”

HAPPY EASTER!

**Sister Marie Angela Natoli, IHM**



**May You All Have a Blessed and  
Holy Easter Season**