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## Food for Thought

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# Food for Thought

Happy moments — praise God  
Difficult moments — seek God  
Quiet moments — worship God  
Painful moments — trust God  
Every moment — thank God

Quoted in *Spirituality*, Dominican Publication,  
November-December 2005

Jesus was a masterful storyteller. Like George Lucas (Star Wars), some of his stories were grand and sweeping with kings, armies, robbers, brigands, and others. Others were simple stories of the everyday: lost coins, lamps that run out, trees and birds, fishing and bread making. What Jesus knew instinctively, though, was that ordinary folk like parables, because they will be remembered and repeated long after any religious lesson...

A few years ago, the Wachowski brothers released a small film, *The Matrix*. Within a few days there was a buzz and box office receipts were piling up. This dark, offbeat sci-fi thriller became a pop sensation, but more than that, began a dialogue and debate about existence, good versus evil, and the nature of humanity, as well as God and Jesus Christ. Among ordinary people, there has been far more theological discussion and reaction to *The Matrix* and its two sequels than to any church statement.

As Christians we are called by virtue of our baptism to tell THE GOOD NEWS. This Good News is essentially a story of the Creator's love affair with the creation. This Good News story is grand, sweeping, bold and exciting — filled with drama, adventure, heartbreak and love. What have we done to the script to make it so dull, boring and unpalatable to so many people?

Perhaps we as a church should go to the movies more often. With a little humility, maybe we can learn something from George Lucas.

**Paul McAuley, CSSp**

The paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create emptiness: not a fearful emptiness, but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free: free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances. Free also to leave and follow their own vocations.

Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the life of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find his or her own.

**Henri Nouwen**  
*Reaching Out*  
Doubleday, 1975

In the Western world, as we know, our churches do pretty well with those who walk through our doors on Sunday, but, and this is the problem, fewer and fewer people are walking through those doors. We seem to know what to do with people once they come to church, but we no longer know how to get them there.

**Ron Rolheiser OMI**