

Spiritan Magazine

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Spiritana

NEWS

MISSIONARY



Praying

A call to prayer

A recent holiday in Ireland left many memories. Among them were two contrasting approaches to prayer and praying.

Twice a day at noon and 6 p.m., RTE — the national radio and television station — broadcast the Angelus. The 3x3x3x9 chiming of the bells invited listeners and viewers to pause a while, to stop what they were doing, and be still. On TV the accompanying images depicted men and women, young and old, taking time out from ordinary activities, interrupting work, raising heads in recognition indoors and outdoors, just being silent and attentive. Without words, in a countrywide call to prayer, the bells of the Angelus invited listeners and viewers to tune in to God.

Sunday Mass in several parishes included the praying of the Glory to God and the Creed by the whole congregation. The Glory to God was short enough that I more or less kept pace, finishing only a sentence behind the general body. The Creed, however, left me breathless. By the halfway mark I was straggling, at the three quarters point I had lost even more ground. Only by eliminating two or three of the “I believe in . . .” did I succeed in finishing within speaking distance of those around me. They were on a roll, I was out of my class.

I got to thinking about prayer. What’s it all about? Words, formulas, set prayers? Silent attention, saying nothing, just being present to the moment? All of the above? I recalled a down-to-earth piece of advice: “Pray as you can, not as you can’t.”

Whatever form it takes, at its deep heart’s core prayer is placing myself in the presence of God. In most cases that means stopping what I’m doing, at least for a minute or two. Perhaps Psalm 46 says it best: “Be still, and know that I am God.” Or if you prefer another translation: “Let be then, learn that I am God.” Anywhere, anytime. A grateful moment as the day dawns, a moment of thanks for a new beginning. A silent moment before going to sleep, a moment to muse on the day gone by. Standing at the foot of a best friend’s grave. Dropping into a church for a visit. Having a few words with the Man Above about a son or daughter, a husband or wife, a sick neighbour or an upcoming surgery.

Such moments may include formal prayers, if they draw me into the presence of God. One of my early memories of going to bed was my mother’s question, “Have you said your prayers?” Music too may help me enter the presence of God — Gregorian or Taizé chants, background easy listening, instrumental accompaniment. Lighting a candle, gazing at the rising sun, contemplating a starry night, or a moon in its many phases, kneeling, sitting, standing — whatever enables me to respond to the traditional call to prayer, “Let us place ourselves in the presence of God.”

Whatever its form, prayer is the means by which we spend time with God. What we say, if we say anything at all, is less important than being in the presence of God. Prayer is more a habit of the heart than a formula of words.

Our 2006 calendar, *Praying*, portrays human beings of many religions and different ages, entering into the presence of God. Their postures vary, their gestures are expressive of what is deep within — they bow, they kneel, they clasp hands, they squat around a cross, they sit and ponder, they make the Sign of the Cross, they pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament in an otherwise empty church. Alone or with others, outside or inside a sacred place, they are attentive to a Presence within them, around them, among them. They are tuning in to God.

Patrick Fitzpatrick, CSSp

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November 2005

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Will Katrina open our eyes?

Deirdre McLoughlin, Lay Spiritan



The Old Testament stories of famine, floods, wars and pestilence come to mind when I think about the last nine months: the tsunami in Asia, the war and its aftermath in Iraq, HIV/Aids rampant particularly in Africa, Hurricane Katrina and the floods, loss of life, livelihood and property in her wake. It was overwhelming to hear accounts of lives in ruins in the U.S., the wealthiest country in the world.

The plight of so many, mainly marginalized, was heart-breaking and provoked real anger. Most of the people who could not evacuate when orders came were the little ones: the powerless, the poor, the frail elderly, the mentally ill, the illiterate, the homeless — those who eked out an existence even at the best of times. They had probably slipped through the frayed security safety net in Louisiana and Mississippi, two of the poorest states in the U.S. Overlooked by the powers that be, they had no way of leaving the doomed city of New Orleans. Mostly African American, they remained trapped by poverty and class as Katrina crashed into the coast without mercy followed by ocean surges, broken levees, and floods of unimaginable depth. Even after five days, the scene in New Orleans, the Big Easy, home of jazz and Mardi Gras, looked like a war zone. People were dying with no water to drink, just putrid water all around, no food to eat, and no power electrical or otherwise. Help was

haphazard or totally unavailable. They were refugees in their own town.

It is difficult not to compare the immediate rescue effort on September 11, 2001 at the Twin Towers in New York, the centre of wealth and power, and the initial abysmal effort in New Orleans, the home of the invisible, les misérables. Katrina unmasked the “dirty little secret” of pockets of poverty hidden in most towns and cities of the world.

Help eventually arrived amid much confusion, most people got water and food and were evacuated. Many perished. The President visited and made official tours of Louisiana and Mississippi. He promised billions of dollars in ongoing aid and declared an official Day of Prayer.

A wake-up call

It is so easy to apportion blame, to sit in one’s armchair and have all the answers, but perhaps this tragedy can be a wake-up call. Katrina happened in North America. Surely the mayhem, the chaos, and the dreadful confusion will make us more aware, raise our consciousness to a new level where we can truly open our eyes to that “dirty little secret”, that hidden face of poverty invisible to most of us in our cities and towns, but now made visible through our sisters and brothers in New Orleans. As Marcus Borg, theologian and author, said, “We have to crack open our hearts” and see we are all interconnected whatever our colour, race or

religion. In the eyes of God not one of us is greater or more important than the other.

Concern for others

It was most striking that many of the impassioned pleas for help heard in the Superdome were not from people pleading for themselves, but for someone else whom they considered worse off. Their concern was often for someone frail and sick, or for a young mother with no food or water or washing facilities for her little ones. TV captured the amazing scene of the young diabetic lapsing into a coma before our eyes, the presence of the only nurse among 10,000 people, herself a refugee, testing the glucose level, begging the crowd for insulin which was offered almost immediately, administering it, and reviving the young girl from certain death. I was reminded of the empathy of Jesus for the widow of Naim whose only son had died, and how, seeing her sorrow, he was moved to restore the boy to life. In New Orleans too, despite the abominable conditions, it was evident that mercy, kindness, concern and compassion were present.

I continue to pray for everyone involved in assisting the people of the stricken Gulf Coast, but most of all I pray for the permanently dispossessed, the poor, the frail and the weak. The words of Jesus, “the meek shall inherit the earth”, seem lodged in my heart. ■

*In the name of
the Father*



*and of
the Son*



*and of
the Holy Spirit*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day Mary, Mother of God World Day of Peace Spiritan Martyrs, Congo	2 St. Basil and St. Gregory	3 Most Holy Name of Jesus	4 St. Elizabeth Seton	5 St. John Neumann	6 First Friday Blessed Brother André	7
8 Epiphany of the Lord	9 Baptism of the Lord	10	11	12 St. Marguerite Bourgeoys	13	14
15 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	16	17 St. Anthony, Abbot	18	19	20	21 St. Agnes
22 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	23	24 St. Francis de Sales	25 Conversion of St. Paul	26 St. Timothy and St. Titus	27 St. Angela Merici	28 St. Thomas Aquinas
29 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	30	31 Islamic New Year St. John Bosco			December 2005 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

January 2006

Breathing in, I calm my body.
Breathing out, I smile.
Dwelling in the present moment...

Thich Nhat Hanh, Vietnamese Buddhist



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

First Friday

4

Presentation of the Lord
Francis Libermann
Co-founder of the Spiritans

St. Blase

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Paul Miki and
the Japanese Martyrs

Our Lady of Lourdes
World Day of the Sick

12

13

14

Valentine's Day

15

16

17

18

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Cyril and St. Methodius

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

St. Polycarp

26

27

28

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blessed Daniel Brottier, Spiritan

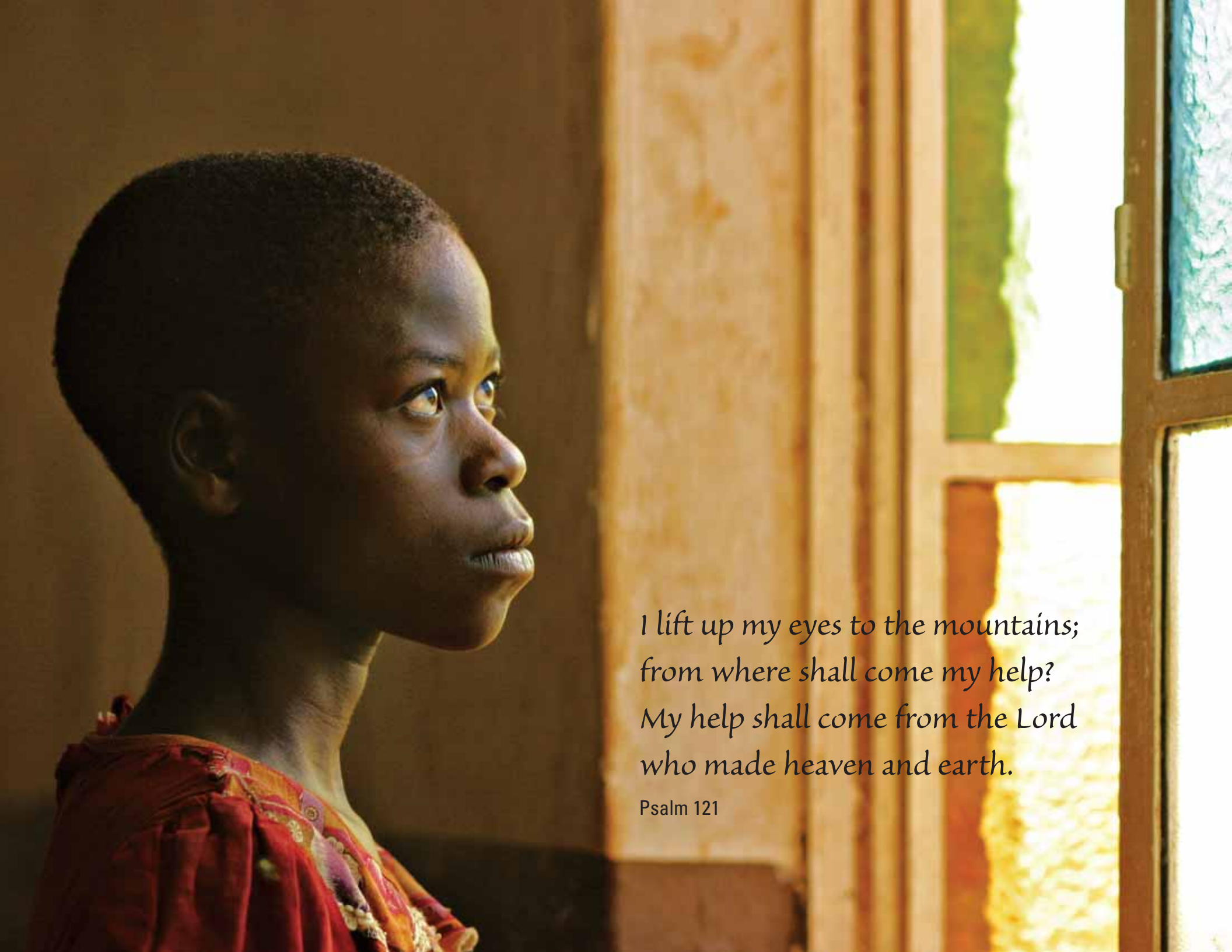
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March

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February 2006



*I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121

Sunday

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Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

February

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30						

1

Ash Wednesday
Fast and Abstinence

2

3

St. Katherine Drexel
World Day of Prayer

First Friday

4

5

1st Sunday of Lent

6

Orthodox Lent Begins

7

8

St. John of God

9

10

11

12

2nd Sunday of Lent

13

14

Purim

15

16

17

St. Patrick's Day

18

19

3rd Sunday of Lent

20

St. Joseph, Patron of Canada

21

22

23

24

25

Annunciation of the Lord

26

4th Sunday of Lent

27

28

29

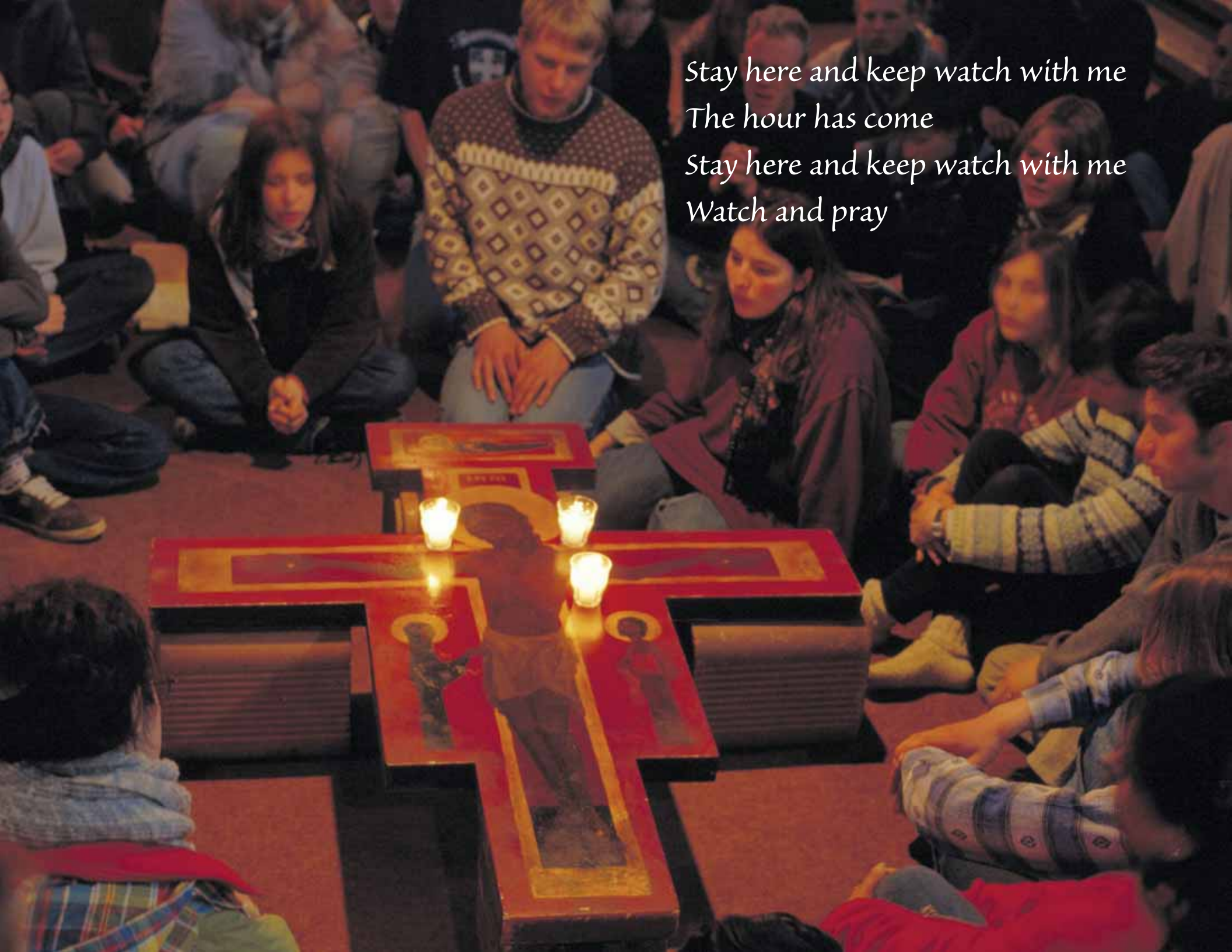
30

31

March 2006

www.Spiritans.com

*Stay here and keep watch with me
The hour has come
Stay here and keep watch with me
Watch and pray*



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

March

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May

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1

2

Daylight Saving Time begins

3

4

5

6

7

First Friday

8

5th Sunday of Lent

St. John Baptist de la Salle

9

10

11

12

13

Passover begins

14

15

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Monday of Holy Week

Tuesday of Holy Week

Wednesday of Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

16

Easter Sunday

Alleluia!

17

18

19

20

21

22

Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Monday

Easter Tuesday

Easter Wednesday

Easter Thursday

Easter Friday

Easter Saturday

23

Orthodox Easter

2nd Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday

24

25

26

27

28

29

3rd Sunday of Easter

30

St. Fidelis

St. Mark, evangelist

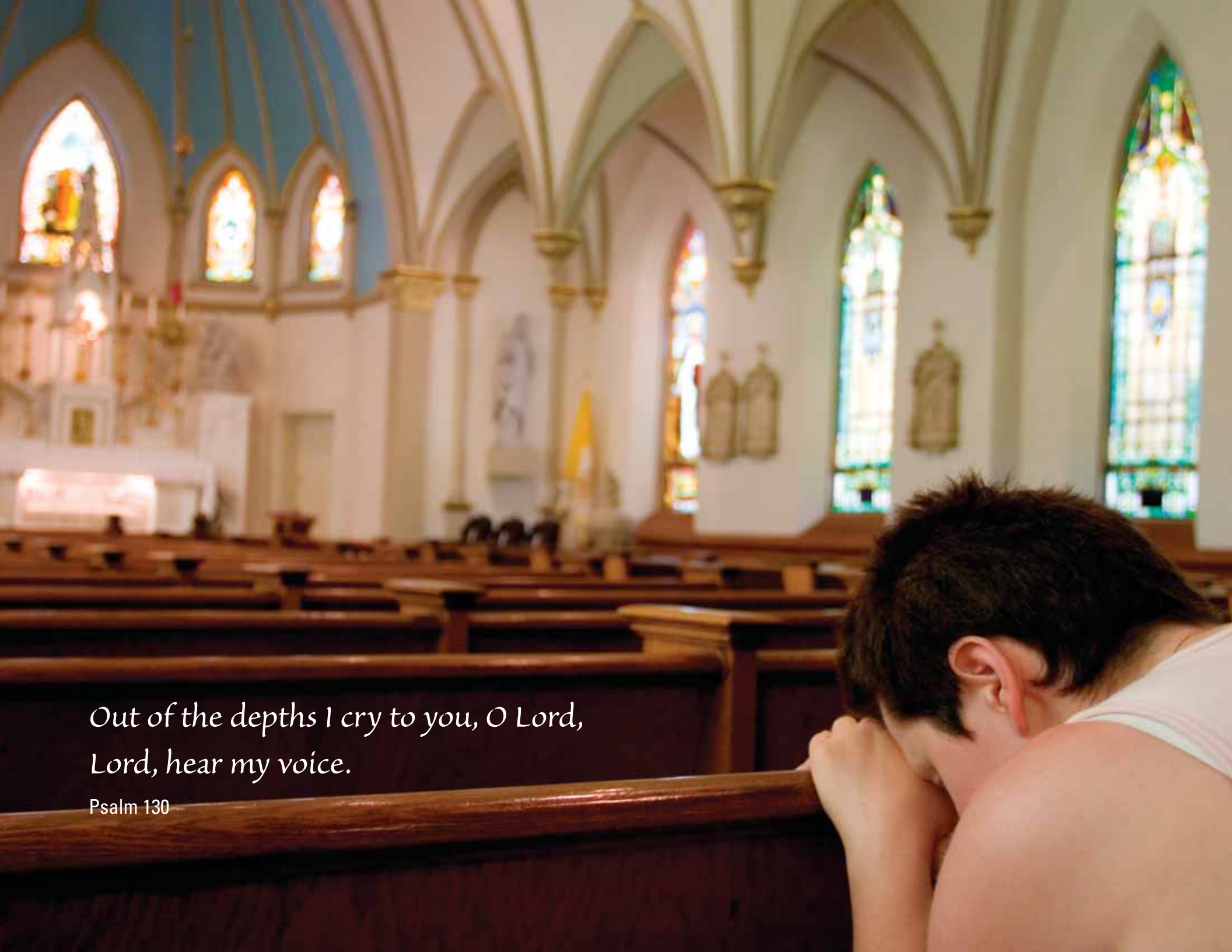
Our Lady of Good Counsel

St. Peter Chanel
St. Louis Grignon de Montfort

St. Catherine of Siena

April 2006

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*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice.*

Psalm 130

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

St. Joseph the Worker

2

St. Athanasius

3

St. Philip and St. James

4

5

First Friday

6

7

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

4th Sunday of Easter

8

9

10

11

12

13

Our Lady of Fatima

14

Mother's Day

5th Sunday of Easter

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

6th Sunday of Easter

22

Victoria Day

23

24

25

St. Bede

26



Pentecost Novena begins

27



St. Augustine of Canterbury

28



Ascension of the Lord

29



30



31



Visitation of Mary

April

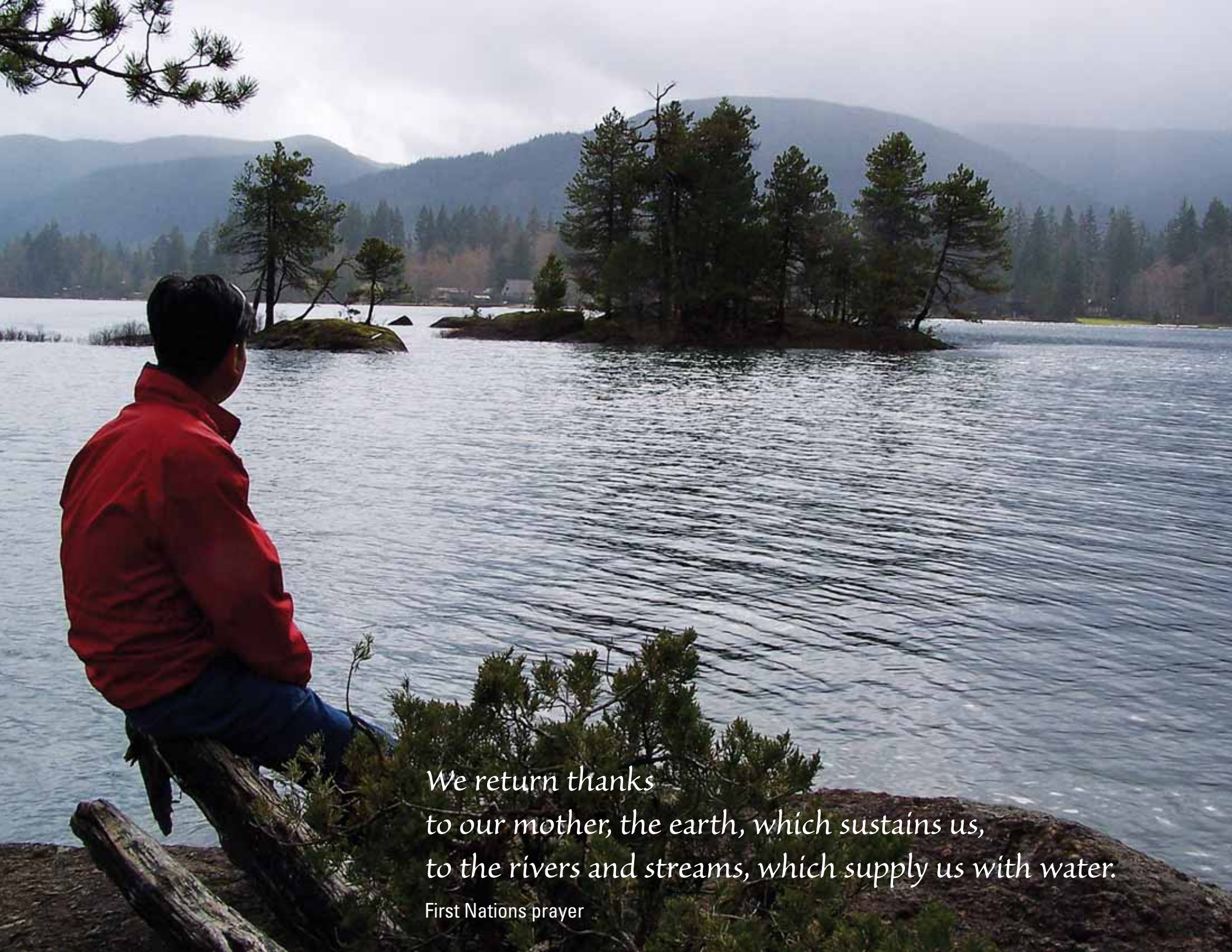
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June

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28	29	30			

May 2006

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*We return thanks
to our mother, the earth, which sustains us,
to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.*

First Nations prayer

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

May

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July

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30	31					

1 

St. Justin

2 

First Friday

3 

St. Charles Lwanga and the Ugandan Martyrs

4



Pentecost Sunday

5

St. Boniface

6

7

8

9

10

11

The Most Holy Trinity

12

13

St. Anthony of Padua

14

15

16

17

18

Father's Day

The Body and Blood of Christ

19

20

21

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

22

St. Thomas More

23

Sacred Heart of Jesus

24

St. John the Baptist

25

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26

27

28

St. Irenaeus

29

St. Peter and St. Paul

30

June 2006

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Peace

Peace

Peace

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

June

	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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August

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1 Canada Day

2

3

4 Independence Day (US)

5

6

7 First Friday

8

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Thomas

St. Elizabeth of Portugal

St. Anthony Zaccaria

St. Maria Goretti

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Benedict

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

St. Bonaventure

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Mary Magdalene

23

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

24

25

26

27

28

29

30 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

31 St. Ignatius of Loyola

St. James, Apostle

St. Joachim and St. Anne

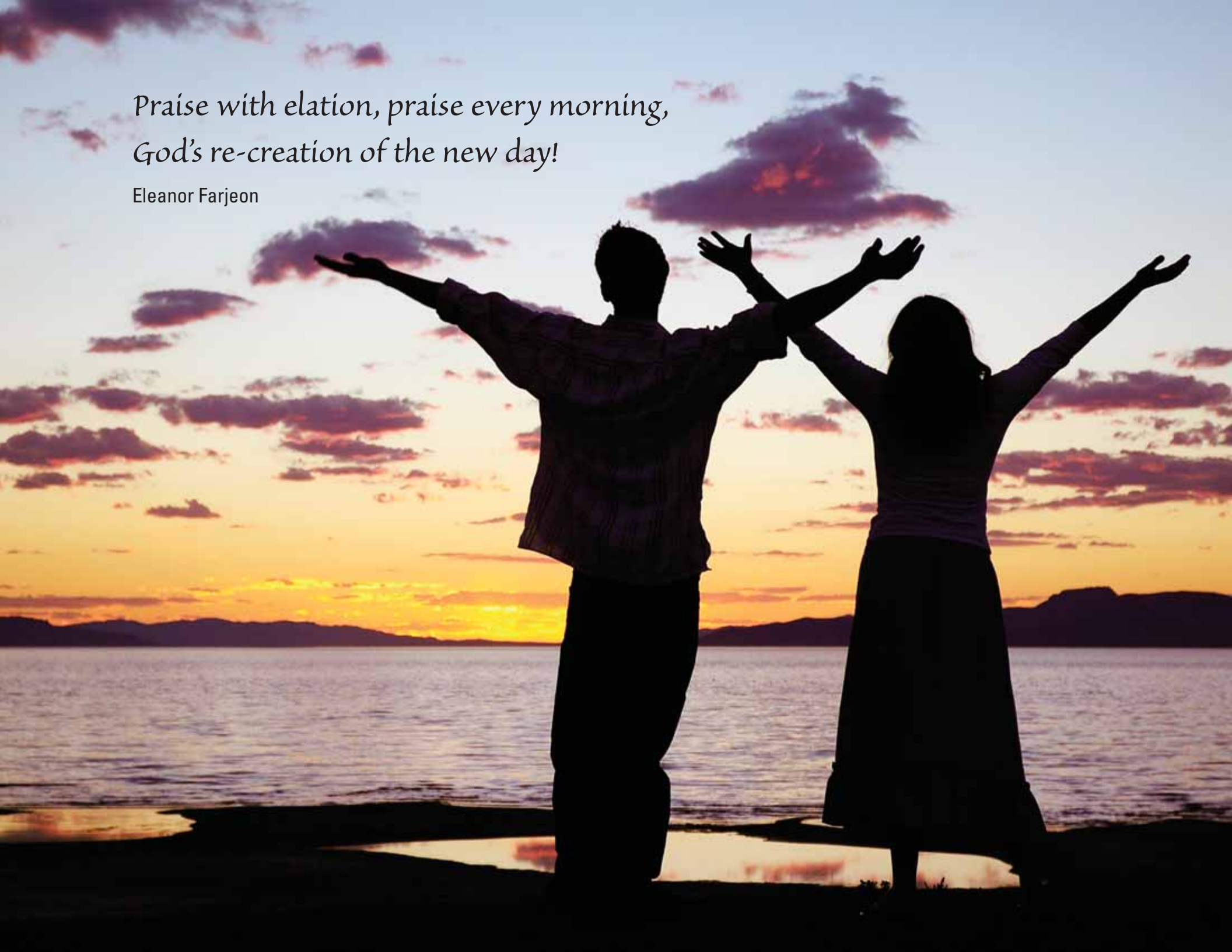
St. Martha

July 2006

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*Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!*

Eleanor Farjeon



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

4

First Friday

5

St. Alphonsus Liguori

St. John Vianney

6

7

Civic Holiday

8

9

10

11

12

Transfiguration of the Lord
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Dominic

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

St. Lawrence

St. Clare

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Assumption of Our Lady

St. Stephen of Hungary

St. John Eudes

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Pius X, Pope

Mary, Queen of Heaven

St. Rose of Lima

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

St. Louis of France

27

28

29

30

31

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Augustine

Martyrdom of John the Baptist

July

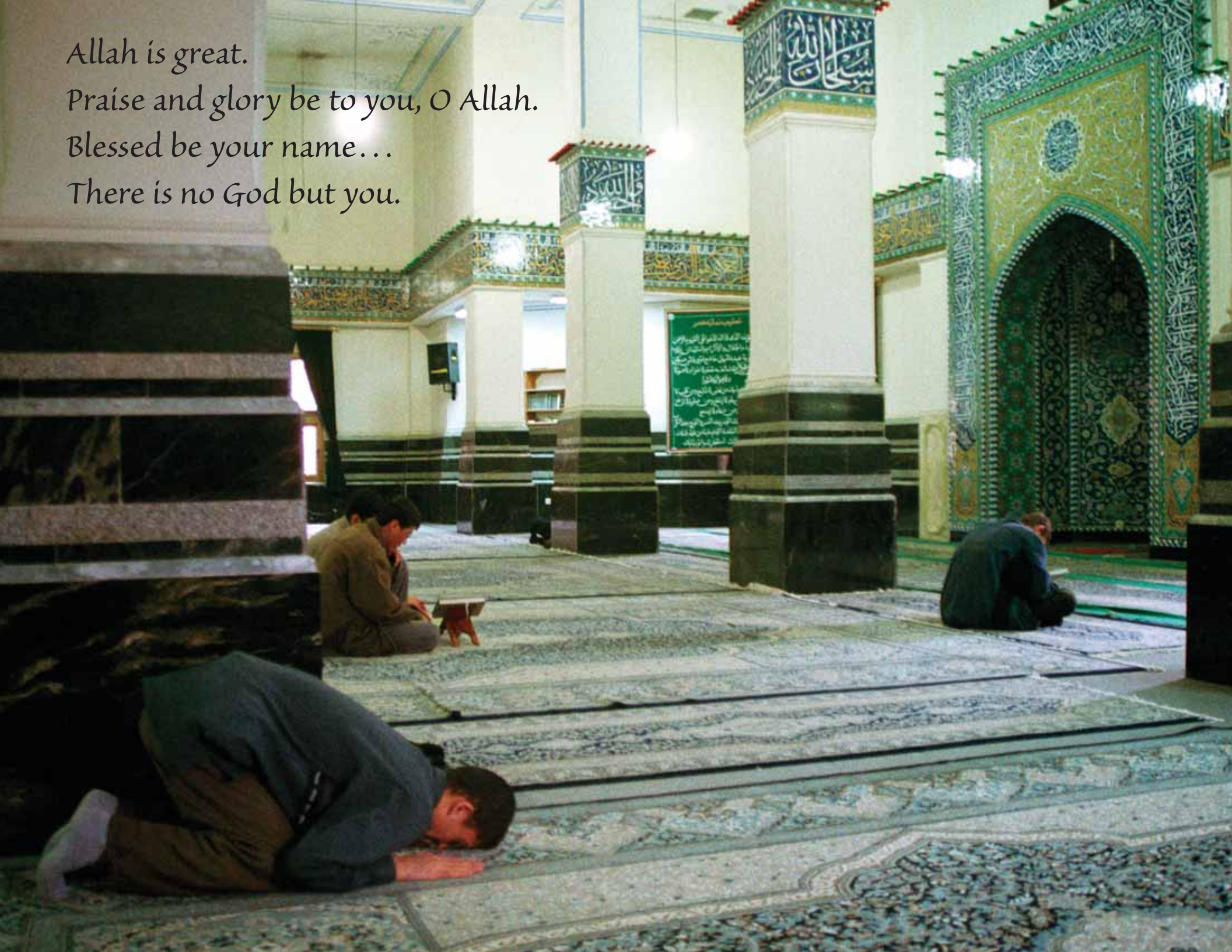
September

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

August 2006

Allah is great.
Praise and glory be to you, O Allah.
Blessed be your name...
There is no God but you.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

August

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

October

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8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

1

First Friday

2

3

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4

Labour Day

5

6

7

8

Birth of Mary

9

Blessed Jacques Laval, Spiritan

10

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

11

12

Holy Name of Mary

13

St. John Chrysostom

14

Triumph of the Cross

15

Our Lady of Sorrows

16

St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian

17

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

18

19

20

St. Andrew Kim, St. Paul Chong and Korean Martyrs

21

St. Matthew

22

23

Rosh Hashana, 1st Day

St. Padre Pio

24

Ramadan

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25

26

Canadian Martyrs

27

St. Vincent de Paul

28

29

St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael

30

St. Jerome

September 2006


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*Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts
which from thy bounty we are about to receive
through Christ our Lord.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Respect Life Sunday 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Yom Kippur The Guardian Angels	3	4 St. Francis of Assisi	5	6 First Friday	7 Sukkoth 1st day Our Lady of the Rosary
8 Vocation Awareness Sunday 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9 Thanksgiving Day (Canada)	10	11	12	13	14
15 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	16 St. Margaret Mary Alacoque	17 St. Ignatius of Antioch	18 St. Luke	19	20 St. Paul of the Cross	21
22 World Mission Sunday 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	23	24 Eid-ul-Fitr St. Anthony Mary Claret	25	26	27	28 St. Simon and St. Jude
29 Daylight Saving Time ends 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	30	31 Halloween			September 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

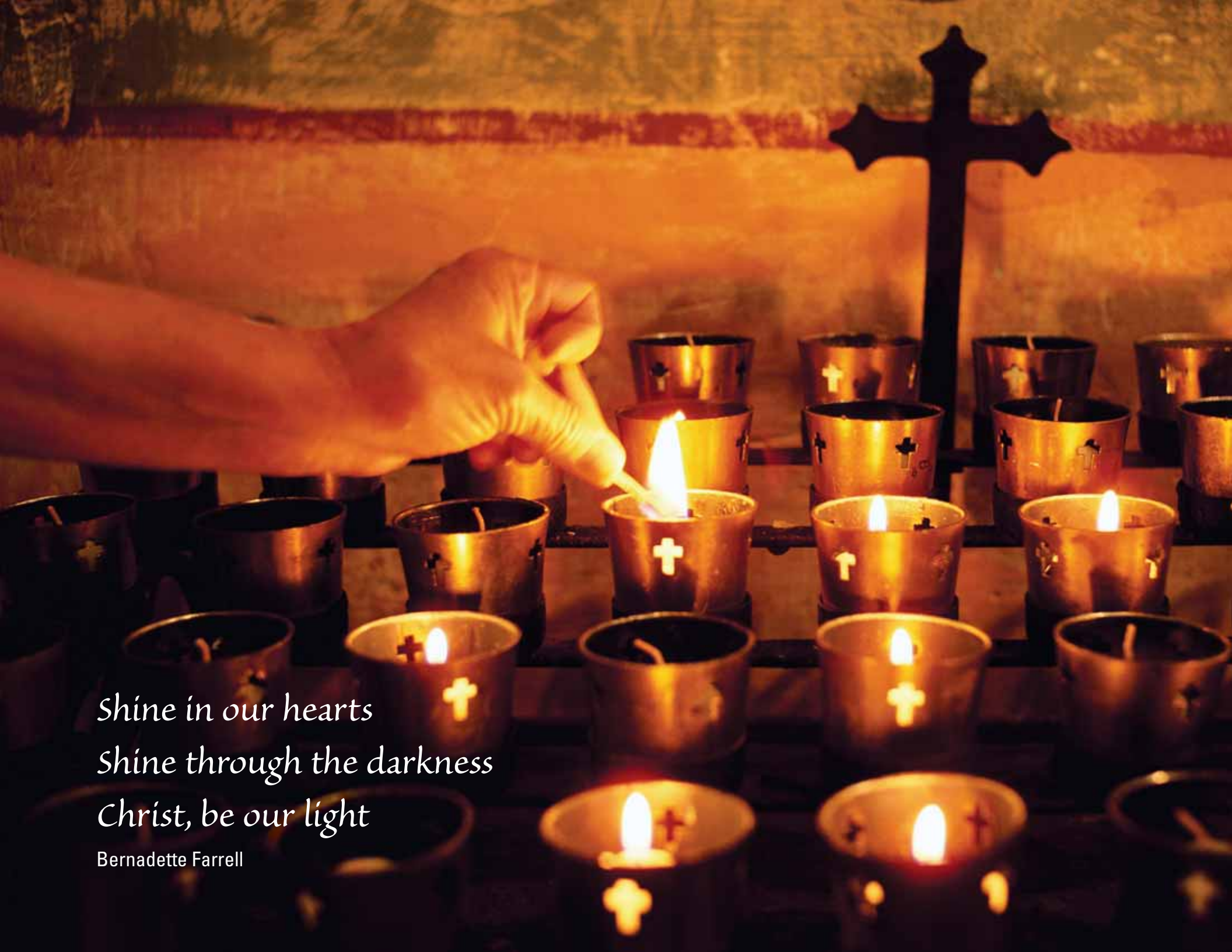
October 2006



*For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
“Peace be to your homes.
May peace reign in your walls.”* Psalm 122

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1 All Saints	2 All Souls Day	3 First Friday St. Martin de Porres	4 St. Charles Borromeo
5 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time	6	7	8	9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome	10 St. Leo, Pope	11 Remembrance Day (Canada) St. Martin of Tours
12 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	13 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini	14	15 St. Albert the Great	16 St. Margaret of Scotland	17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary	18
19 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	20	21 Presentation of Mary	22 St. Cecilia	23 Thanksgiving Day (US) St. Clement & St. Columban	24 St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Vietnamese Martyrs	25 St. Catherine of Alexandria
26 Christ the King	27	28	29	30 St. Andrew		

November 2006



*Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light*

Bernadette Farrell

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

November

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January 2007

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28	29	30	31			

1 First Friday

2

3 

1st Sunday of Advent

4

St. John of Damascus

5

6

St. Nicholas

7

St. Ambrose

8

Immaculate Conception of Mary

9

St. Juan Diego

10 

2nd Sunday of Advent

11

St. Damascus

12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

13

St. Lucy

14

St. John of the Cross

15

Hanukkah begins

16

17 

3rd Sunday of Advent

18

19

20

21

22

23

24 

Christmas Eve
4th Sunday of Advent

Holy Family

31

25 Christmas Day



26

St. Stephen

Boxing Day
First Day of Kwanzaa

27

St. John, Apostle

28

The Holy Innocents

29

St. Thomas Becket

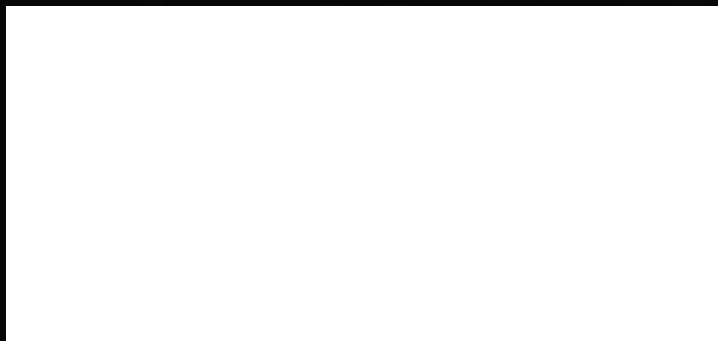
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December 2006

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Spiritan Missionary News
121 Victoria Park Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M4E 3S2
P.M.#40050389



*May
the light of Christ surround you
the arms of Christ enfold you
the power of Christ protect you
the love of Christ watch over you
for ever and ever.*

Amen.

