



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee July 2025

It's Formation Time *By S. Carla Mae Streeter*

Now, Sunday by Sunday, we challenge each other to our on-going baptismal formation in discipleship. Four characteristics are given to us this month: first, we walk it together; then we might find ourselves walking with someone we didn't expect; next, are we hospitable? And finally, why we need to persevere in praying. It isn't as if we haven't heard this before, but because we've been transformed anew by the Easter Mystery, we are different.

The recent Synod made it clear: we are a communion in the Church, and the hierarchy is there to "order" things so we can travel through history, not to dominate. It means I too am a minister-in-the-marketplace. We in the pews are the Church alongside the ministry of the ordained. Together, this community must create its future in history, with no one left behind.

Next, we might find ourselves seeking to share our Catholic search for wholeness and universality with surprising companions, those who don't share our water-baptism. They have other faith tradition coaches, but a God-desire like our own. Or we may find ourselves with someone who needs our attention in a way we hadn't planned. Our discipleship calls for a readiness for service-surprises. What does hospitality have to do with discipleship? Hospitality begins in the heart. The stranger or guest will feel an acceptance in our heart before being welcomed into our space. A smile, an introduction, a hug, says volumes to someone new. We are called as disciples to make room for the one seeking a place in our space.

Finally, we are reminded to pray without ceasing. But I have, you say, and nothing changes. Then the disciple has to know what to do. When God seems to be deaf to our pleas, it's time for what is called "the sacrifice of praise." It's a sacrifice, because it is counter-intuitive, and it's praise because, with utter trust, the disciple thanks for what God is already doing to answer my prayer in God's timing. God heard us the first time. God is already keeping his word: if we ask we will receive. Every time our need crosses our mind, we praise and thank. God can't resist. That's how we're in formation.

*Your Spirit has come... I'm not the same as before the Breath and Flame.
Fed by Yourself and the Wind beneath my wings
I'm not the same.
Continue forming me in your Word and quicken my Following.*

Thank you to Associate Miles Vilski for this month's reflections.

July 6, 2025 | 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Gal. 6:14-18

Paul writes that "I bear the marks of Jesus on my body." These marks are the scars Paul bears because of the beatings and whippings he suffered while preaching the name of Jesus the Christ. Does my body bear marks physically, emotionally or mentally from proclaiming Jesus by my actions or words?

July 13, 2025 | 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Lk 10:25-37

The parable of the Good Samaritan should remind me that as a disciple of Jesus I am called to protest against the social norms and boundaries that my culture tries to impose on me. To love God and my neighbor means that I reject social barriers that attempt to categorize, restrict and oppress others who are not like me.

July 20, 2025 | 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Lk 10:38-42

The story of Martha and Mary invites me to be self-reflective. Am I so involved in working for the Lord in my ministries that I neglect or rush through prayer time? Do I forget to be truly present to my family, community or friends because I am so busy helping others?

July 27, 2025 | 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Lk 11:1-13

Most of us memorized prayers like the Our Father or the Hail Mary in our youth. Do I say them or other prayers so routinely that I give the words little thought or reflection?

Shakespeare cautions us in his play Hamlet: "My words fly up; my thoughts remain below. Words without thoughts never to heaven go."

