



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

July 2023

LIVING INTO THE MYSTERY

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

The Paschal Mystery and the big Feasts are now behind us.

We have entered the 'green' season. What does the wise Church want to teach us? Where does she want to lead us? This is called 'Ordinary Time' because now we will be entering deeply into the Mysteries we have celebrated. We will be 'unpacking' them, and making wonderful discoveries.

But you say, "I've read these readings before!" Ah...but the 'you' reading them now is a different you. You have journeyed further, and the journey has been teaching you.

There are five Sundays in July of 2023. The first Sunday will remind you of your Calling. The second Sunday will face you with a choice for your daily living: the Spirit's breath or the letter of the law? Then in the next three Sundays, we will be challenged to go deeper into the seed of suffering, the way good and evil are so mixed together, and how little things really count. Finally, we will be reminded to keep our focus: keep your eyes on the pearl. He is the Mystery!

**YOUR LOVE IS WIDE AND DEEP
AND ALL AROUND ME.**

**HELP ME TO SEE WIDER AND
DEEPER AND WHAT SURROUNDS ME.**

**NO, I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE —
BECAUSE THE ME THAT IS NEW
HAS NOT BEEN HERE BEFORE.**



THANK YOU TO ASSOCIATE DOUG GUNDLACH FOR THIS MONTH'S REFLECTIONS.**July 2nd | 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mt 10:37-42**

"Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." -v38

This is the demand of a Christian summarized in a single sentence. Jesus accepted his cross and made the ultimate sacrifice. As disciples we each have our own individual crosses to bear. To be true to Jesus, we must accept them, carry them, and bring to fruition what he intends through our specific role. What cross is mine to bear this month?

July 9th | 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mt 11:25-30

"My yoke is easy and my burden light." – v30

While the scribes insisted on strict adherence to over 600 laws, Jesus offers a yoke that is individually designed for each disciple. Just as a proper yoke for an ox doing field work is customized to minimize chafing and ensure maximum leverage in pulling, so can the right spiritual yoke fit us as Christians. My task is to accept the yoke Jesus has for me and not to yearn for one he has given to another.

July 16th | 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mt 13:1-23

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." -v23

The parable of the Sower challenges us to be "rich soil." It is not a one-time "us vs. them" differentiation. It is an ongoing challenge for each of us to be receptive to the Word each week and continue to bear holy fruit.

July 23rd | 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mt 13:24-43

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened." – v33

Three measures of flour would feed a hundred people! Similarly, a small amount of Christian action can help many people. Like yeast, such new initiatives need the right conditions of warmth, care, and time to work. How have I been good yeast? Where can I encourage people to be good yeast of new batches of spiritual dough?

July 30th | 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mt 13:44-52

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that she has and buys that field." -v44

The discovery of our faith in Christ is the greatest treasure of our life. The more we let it guide our decisions, the simpler our decisions become. What question that I am discerning could be simpler if I return to that faith within?