

A TREASURY OF  
**Living Faith**



Celebrating *40* Years  
of Daily Catholic Devotions

**Anniversary Edition**

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# Welcome to *A Treasury of Living Faith*

*For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.*

MATTHEW 6:21

Happy 40th Anniversary, *Living Faith*! Forty years represents an entire generation. For many *Living Faith* loyal readers, it's been an intergenerational family affair—a beloved periodical shared and gifted with many millions of readers over the last four decades. I first discovered *Living Faith* during my visits back home as a young adult in the 80s—*Living Faith* was one of my mother's regular subscriptions. (She became my biggest fan decades later in 2021 when I took the publication's helm.)

From a scriptural standpoint, forty days in the Bible represents an important time to prepare for a mission. Forty days has long been the norm for a dedicated period of ascetical practice—particularly focused on the discipline of daily prayer. This syncs with the powerful mission that is foundational to *Living Faith*: praying with a daily Scripture from the Mass, that it may bear good fruit in our lives and, in turn, prepare us for the mission of sharing the Good News.

More than 14,600 pages of *Living Faith* devotions were reviewed to bring you these selections from 1985-2024 that continue to inspire and bring faith alive. My heartfelt thanks go out to the *Living Faith* team: Kasey Nugent and Ben Kupiszewski, plus our editorial colleagues at Creative Communications and our interns from Assumption University.

Whether you are new to daily prayer or taking a quiet time, or long accustomed, the 40 days of devotions in this collection will help strengthen that good habit. Dig in, read and pray.

May God guide you as you seek the treasure within.

■ PAT GOHN, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

# Coming Home

*Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.*

*God created mankind in his image;  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.*

GENESIS 1:26-27

We often think of closer union with God as new and alien to our nature, as something that requires us to be radically different than we really are.

But suppose for a moment that union with God isn't really a strange human condition after all. Suppose that in our deepest being, we are the image of God rather than, as

Think of union  
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homecoming...

Thomas Merton noted, "His shadow." Suppose we have a kind of natural union with God already by virtue of our existence. Suppose what we are talking about in the spiritual life is recovering, restoring what is already there. Suppose we are talking about realizing what already exists.

Suppose we have become alienated from our true selves. Suppose sin, as Merton said, is "the refusal to be what we are, a rejection of our mysterious, contingent, spiritual reality hidden in the very mystery of God—the refusal to be what we were created to be, sons of God and images of God." Think of union with God as a homecoming, a return that will thrill you precisely because that is where you belong and where you have been all along but didn't know it.

**God, I'm not home yet, but I'm on the way.**

■ JAMES E. ADAMS

April 20, 1985

# Changing for the Better

*All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

Is it possible for you to picture yourself beholding the face of Christ transfigured, atop the mountain, as it were standing as a bridge between God's old covenant founded on the law and the new covenant arising out of grace? Behold him, adore him—your brother, your God, your Savior, your friend!

As you look at that face in adoration and worship, God's grace transforms you from a separated sinner to a beloved son or daughter. That is the way it is with all those who dare to come close enough to Christ with hearts open to accept the brilliant warmth of his love. He changes lives.

But like those three favored disciples, we can't always remain in cozy and inspiring worship. We must leave the mountain top to go into the valley of our work and home. We know it is life's highest good to be with him. We also know that we honor him by doing his will.

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## He changes lives.

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As you think about the Transfiguration today, go boldly from that mountain top knowing that coming close to Christ changes your life. He has set you free, made you his friend. As you behold the glory of God in the face of Christ, he is at that very moment changing you into his likeness.

**Lord, I thank you for every time my heart has received your transforming love...at Mass, in prayer, in the wonder of a sunrise...Amen.**

■ LARRY NEEB

*August 6, 1986*

# Deep-Water God

*Through the sea was your way;  
your path, through the mighty waters,  
though your footsteps were unseen.  
You led your people like a flock...*

PSALM 77:20-21

Your way is to carry us through deep waters. The waters, though provoking terror at first, have so often turned out to be wonderfully cooling and saving waters. Yet, if we want to trace your path, who can find your footprints in the waters?

Who can  
find your  
footprints in  
the waters?

I have begun to look for the comfort of your presence in the wake of these waters. I have seen you in my mind's eye walking toward me across the waters. I race toward you, but in my uncertainty, I sink. I reach for your hand. You hold me up.

O Lord of the seas, through the sea is your way. You led your beloved band of Hebrews through the seas. You walked through the waves to those scared disciples. And now you come to me—through the deep waters. You push me gently under. “Go down,” you say. “Go down to the unknown. Come through these deep waters with me.” You lift me up.

And then you are gone. O elusive God! I look. There are no footprints in the waters. I cannot find a trace of you. But if I wait in darkness, you show up in my life. You have left your footprints in my heart.

**My God, I long for the day when I will feel no need to look for your footprints.**

■ SR. MACRINA WIEDERKEHR, O.S.B.

*August 26, 1987*

# Costly Discipleship

*Yet it was our pain that he bore,  
our sufferings he endured.*

ISAIAH 53:4

When Jesus lifted the weight of sorrow from the sad and lonely, when he cleansed lepers, strengthened the limbs of the crippled, brought back life to the dead, he seemed to do it rather effortlessly, as if it cost him nothing.

He gave himself  
to death to pay  
for the life he  
had bestowed.

But during his passion the price he paid for those “easy” miracles became clear. Then all the infirmities and weaknesses he had assumed broke out on him as if in one giant wound. Then appeared the agony and sorrow and abandonment he had lifted from others; and he became a “leper,” an outcast. He stumbled and fell like a man who had lost control. He gave himself to death to pay for the life he had bestowed.

When we reach out to others to assume their burdens in charity, Christ’s example should be our support. We need to endure past the glow of our first enthusiasms, still caring when the nitty-gritty of daily routine begins to test our commitment. For that, we will need prayer.

**When I reach out to help others, Lord, give me courage to see my effort through to the end.**

■ SR. MARY TERESE DONZE  
*March 23, 1988*

# Open-Heartedness

*Then he said to the host who invited him, “When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.*

LUKE 14:12-13

During Jesus’ public ministry he had no home. He often stayed with different people on his journeys. Hospitality was freely given in this desert culture, and no payment was expected of the guest. However, Jesus is suggesting the hosts open their homes to the dregs of society, the beggars, the broken, the blind.

Physical weakness and brokenness were thought to be a scourge from God because of sin. Jesus is telling his host to accept the socially unacceptable.

It is easy to open our hearts and homes to those who think alike and who share the same family or background, but we are encouraged by Jesus to invite those who are different from us into our lives, whether the difference is caused by economics, race, religion or social standing. We then begin to see others as Jesus sees them and are enabled to love them because God loved them first.

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■ LUCIA GODWIN

*November 6, 1989*



# Cycles of Compassion

*He deserves to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation and he built the synagogue for us.*

LUKE 7:4-5

Today's Gospel shows us how one act of compassion for the welfare of another person grows into a cycle of concern. The Roman centurion is concerned about his dying servant and so sends some Jewish elders to petition Jesus for healing. In turn, the Jewish elders have particular concern for the centurion because of his past generosity toward them.

Jesus responds immediately by setting out for the centurion's home. For his part, the centurion shows his concern by not wanting to inconvenience Jesus any more than is necessary. Completing the cycle of compassion initiated by the centurion, Jesus heals the servant.

One act of kindness or concern shown to another person most often generates a second and a third with ripples continuing on into infinity. We will never know how one act of concern for another—though it may seem insignificant to us—multiplies in a continuous cycle of compassion.

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■ SR. RUTH MARLENE FOX, O.S.B.

*September 17, 1990*

# Thy Kingdom Come

*As you go, make this proclamation: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

MATTHEW 10:7

A father says to his daughter: “I believe in you; you do it.” ...*The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.* A veteran teacher says to her principal: “I’m reading up on some new ideas to help my most difficult student with his behavior problems.” ...*The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.* A woman of many years takes a new class at a community college each semester. ...*The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.* A widowed man spends three afternoons a week gently helping to care for people who have Alzheimer’s disease. ...*The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*

The  
Kingdom of  
Heaven is  
not far off...

The Kingdom of Heaven is not far off, it’s as near as the nearest person who is sad, sick, lonely, illiterate or without friends. The Kingdom of Heaven is as near as the nearest opportunity to overcome limitations I place on myself. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand when I turn to God in prayer at odd moments of the day. And, of course, the Kingdom is at hand when we face death or hold a newborn infant in our arms.

**Lord Jesus, help me to recognize the Kingdom of Heaven in all the ordinary ways I draw near to it in my daily life.**

■ MITCH FINLEY

*June 11, 1991*

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Forty years in the making...*A Treasury of Living Faith* offers inspirational reading—from the past to the present—from the pages of one of most popular and beloved periodicals, *Living Faith: Daily Catholic Devotions*. Born in St. Louis in 1985, and now known around the world, this small-sized but mighty page-a-day devotional based on a Scripture verse from the Mass every day of the year has strengthened the faith of readers for four decades and counting. Whether you're a longtime loyal reader or a brand new reader to *Living Faith*, this is your opportunity to own this limited edition keepsake.



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