



# 9 TOES IN ETERNITY

A sagacious salmagundi of one-liners,  
sacro-saws, holy quips and pious  
quotes composed or compiled by

Ronda Chervin

for distribution at her funeral



# 9 TOES IN ETERNITY

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Illustrations and captions by James Kent Ridley

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AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

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**When the Renowned Ronda formally announced to her assembled disciples the forthcoming publication of a memorial compendium of her pithiest remarks and wittiest bons mots, entitled 9 TOES IN ETERNITY, their response, though quite predictable, was very heartening to the charismatic octogenarian widow.**

## PREFACE



At age 80,  
I have become tired of my usual thoughts.



**Truth be told, from her earliest years, Ronda had, perhaps undeservedly, earned the reputation of being somewhat of an eccentric egghead and bird-brained scheme-hatcher.**

Instead, I long for the luminous  
vistas of heaven.



**In her yearnings to be transported to the beatific vistas of the celestial realm, Ronda, throughout these latter days of her terrestrial sojourn, struggles to repulse the alluring advances of that importunate Casanova of celebrity who croons entrancing serenades in praise of her intellectual achievements and of her 65-book literary legacy.**

**Ronda's perpetual petition has been:  
"Mother Mary, when my heart beats too loud,  
fold me in your cloak and hide me from the  
world."**



**However, her sequential Franciscanesque  
attempts to humbly evade notoriety and  
remain inconspicuous have in her latter years  
much diminished in their wonted efficacy.**

Yet, just the same, there is an urge to  
assemble my best thoughts,  
hopefully inspired by the Holy Spirit...

For who?  
For me?  
For you?

And, I long to see those thoughts  
illustrated by the graphic artist, Jim  
Ridley, who has been accompanying my  
insights with humor for many decades in  
books of mine published by Goodbooks  
Media and in my blogs.

So, here you have it!



Enjoy!



**Here Ronda's illustrator holds up a gally proof  
of the 9 TOES volume.**

**As you can clearly see, the book has been  
printed in invisible ink  
on Mylar transparency pages.**

**Notice that this first edition prototype also  
includes the bonus of an embedded audio file  
of a silent reading of the text  
by the author herself.**



Every day imagine your  
resurrected body: leaping,  
dancing...!

If Jesus wants to leap into your  
body every day as the Eucharist,  
shouldn't you be there as often  
as you can to receive Him?

Have nothing but love in your  
heart: grateful love, suffering  
love, joyful love...not pockets of  
anger, despair or blahs!

Make a list of all the people you were ever close to and put next to each name the good qualities of them you benefited from, thanking those still alive and thanking God for these, and also for all those who have gone to eternity.

We often say about something hard for us but good, such as breaking bad habits, I “can’t” do it; but if someone offered us \$500 to do it, we probably could; so challenge yourself by asking ‘if someone offered me \$500 to do something hard but good, wouldn’t I try to do it?’

Enfold others whose sufferings  
fill you with pain into the  
wounds of Jesus.

Thank God for every tiny thing  
each day that is good, even  
toilet paper, and you will feel  
much happier than usual.

Fill in all the spaces on the  
program of my life my Jesus,  
and waltz me to eternity.

Lord, lay Your hand on me and  
unfurrow my soul's brow.

Fussy multiplicity or splendid  
variety it all depends if it be I or  
You, God, who sets the stage.

Lest the eye get too sharp, and  
the upper lip too stiff, God sends  
the gift of tears.

Mother Mary, when my heart  
beats too loud, fold me  
in your cloak and hide me  
from the world.

Flow into God emptyhanded;  
that is to be poor in spirit.

If you feel old and ugly when you look in the mirror don't think "every day in every way I look less like Marilyn Monroe or Clark Gable, think every day in every way I look more like Mother Teresa or John Paul II.

When grieving about the loss of loved ones who have left this earth, keep your eyes open just the same to see who God is sending to fill up the hole in your heart.

Not all surprises are negative, so don't be pessimistic.

If you think you are the hero/  
ine of the drama of life and  
others are just secondary  
characters or cameos to  
enhance your show, you will be  
angry and disappointed  
most of your days on earth.

If I am too “busy and troubled  
about many things” I don’t let  
Jesus into my heart  
enough to comfort me.

When check-mated by life, we  
see more clearly that we need  
Jesus not only as a model but  
as a savior.

God peeping through the lattices of my day whispers in my ear, “What, did you think I couldn’t find you unless you were out looking for Me?”

There is an ontological abyss between me and my cat, but I can still love him and forgive him if he scratches me; so can God love us and forgive us.

If they showed a movie of your life in heaven, what would be the greatest graces?

Anyone who thinks I am a saint just because I write well about saints, is either stupid, crazy, or a vile flatterer; maybe all three.

The absence of annoyance is not joy, you will realize when you lose family members to moving away from your location or the earth.

I cross the rapids of resentment on the sturdy boat of forgiveness.



I lay me down in the grave of  
time and cry out eternity!

If all the worldly is but nothing,  
shall I not ask a littler share?

The Apostles would never have  
let themselves in for such a  
death had they not seen the  
Resurrected Jesus and also seen  
Him ascend into heaven bodily  
promising to bring believers to  
Him when they died.

The Church is the true U.N.

Don't let negatives states of mind become like quicksand; instead immediate pray "Deliver me from the bad spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ (anxiety, anger, whichever) I lay it at Your feet, dear Jesus, take it away.

Floating out to sea on a raft of Your love – what is Your will, my Lord – that I come further, further out or that I swim against the tide, back to shore?

Into your Heart, Jesus,  
I surrender my future.

Wondering what heaven will be like; think of the most joyful moment of your life on earth and multiple by a million.

Do the math, isn't any finite amount of suffering on earth worth an infinite number of "years" of joy in heaven one day, as Jesus promised if we love God and repent.

I run my heart over the ridged braille of reality until I see  
Your face, my God.

“Love is not Loved” once  
exclaimed St. Bernard. In the  
year 2001, I was praying in  
Adoration with the sad face  
of El Greco’s Jesus of the  
Veronica’s Veil painting in my  
imagination and this  
came to me:

I could produce many reasons  
why I don’t love Love enough:  
Is it easier for me to love You  
as truth because truth is  
strong and love is vulnerable?  
Is it easier for me to love You  
as beauty because beauty is  
sublime and love is messy?  
Is it easier for me to love You  
as mercy because mercy is balm  
and love is strenuous?

When I look into Your tragic  
eyes, my Jesus, I think the  
reason might be deeper still.  
Terror of surrender to your  
Divine heart who beat is so loud  
I could no longer hear my own?  
Fear that after diving into your  
waves you might cast me out  
on the shore even more  
helpless to survive?

Yet a perfect unison of  
heartbeat with Jesus would  
render me more like you,  
Mother Mary. You certainly  
did not emerge from your  
surrender to the Holy Spirit  
as a dead fish. No! Rather as  
Queen of Apostles!

*Now these are lines from words  
in my heart that I think came  
from Jesus and the Holy Spirit to  
comfort me:*

After your mastectomy your  
scar will be like the stigmata  
when a sword pierced My side  
during my crucifixion.

I wean you from this world by  
your sorrows; your joys are  
your foretastes of heaven.

In your last decades  
think of yourself less as  
a captain and more like a  
lighthouse.

Don't fit in, shine forth.



**It is becoming obvious that Ronda is, at last, beamingly determined not to take lightly the heavy charge to fulfill the mandatum of Jesus to become a Light of the World.**



You who fear rejection:  
not by grabbing trying to  
capture locking the door...  
Come inside My heart  
where I make all to be one.

Ronda, if you became a saint  
your books would sell better.

Insert your name into every  
Scripture you read as in  
“Ronda, I have called you by  
name, you are Mine.”

Go slowly (*lento*); not jerkily  
(*staccato*) through each day.



**Enlightened readers have come to behold  
Ronda as the Lamp of God.**

When you feel afraid, take My  
pierced hand and let Me lead  
you up the mountain  
of life to heaven.

When arguing with anti-  
Catholics who accuse the  
Church of taking money from  
the poor to build Churches,  
I like to say: you don't  
understand, in Catholic  
countries the poor go in and  
out of the Church during the  
day, seeing the Churches as  
their celestial living room.

When people say that we should not evangelize because all religions have truth in them, I like to say "How can you know Jesus and not wish everyone knew Him?"

Stop scheming to avoid suffering.

Don't dog-paddle in the waves of life, but let me, Jesus, float you to the shore.

Why would you want to do anything without Me?



**Ronda's humbler portrayal of herself is only slightly at variance with the vision projected by her readers.**



**Ronda describes her book as a canister of verbal napalm, each written utterance a blazing burst of wisdom and love to reignite darkling hearts gone hard and cold.**

*It happened that as I was remembering favorite ways I found of expressing truths of writing prayers, in old journals or in books I wrote through the decades, I found quite a number of what I used to call prayer-poems. These were originally illustrated by Kathy Hall Campitelli.*

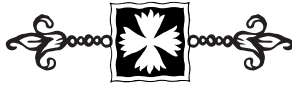
*They are sort of like poems, but not as formal, stylized or beautiful. However, they are not like other prayers, because they rely primarily on imagery, as poetry does. Even though they are more than one-line, I thought readers of 9 TOES IN ETERNITY would like them, so I am including my favorites here:*



**Ronda prays that looking through the pages of this book will fit the reader with the prescription lenses of faith that will afford an heightened vision of the spectacular dimensions of the divine verities, otherwise beyond the spectral range of mortal sight.**



## OLD BODY



Old match  
in your dusty box  
who would guess  
that, struck by human hand,  
you could yet burst into glorious flame?

Old body  
in your fatigues  
who would guess  
that in the monstrance of God's love  
you could sing with glory.

## A DRIVER'S PRAYER



When I drove alone  
along the path  
of life  
it was  
Bang,  
Crash!  
Totaled!

Now I ride with  
Your right arm  
around me  
cushioned against  
all shocks.

On my last excursion, Lord  
I will close my eyes  
And let You  
take me home.

## LOVE IN HEAVEN



Intense as lover's kiss  
soft as mother's breast  
free as friend's delight  
caring as father's gaze  
secure as God's eternity.

In the end,  
I shall have no foot-hold  
only hand-hold.  
Teach me, Lord,  
how to hold hands in the dark.

## RELIQUARY



Human love, so poignant,  
must you pall?  
your primal freshness  
wilt with time?  
must this be...always?

Yes, My dear, but do not weep.  
The tattered garment  
stained with blood and sweat  
can be a relic  
treasured as My gift.

## PALL-BEARER OF LOVES



Choose Me as pall-bearer  
of all your loves.  
And I will take them  
into My Sacred Heart  
to their true home – Eternity!

## WEEKDAYS



Priests manning phones  
back in the rectory.

Large churches  
standing empty

but for the church-mice  
hoping to be stained  
by mysteries in glass;

eating crumbs  
from the table;

gazing at statue-saints  
until they smile back;

entering locked  
gold tabernacles  
with x-ray souls.

God knows  
each one  
by name.

# CHRIST JESUS VICTOR



Satan, never idle,  
rolls balls of thorns  
through the desert  
saving them for wreaths  
on the Savior's brow.

In Christ  
we bathe our hearts  
in the blood  
from His crown –  
'til purified.

## CROSS AND RESURRECTION



For years I hung on Your cross,  
at last so cozy  
I made its wood  
into the coffin of my dreams!

Now, boldly, You open it,  
not afraid of the stench of old rage.  
Tenderly You uncoil the shroud  
with Your own hands.  
The wounds tear.  
Living waters flow.  
I swim in Your immensity,  
Float stunned in Your love.



# PILGRIMAGE OF THE HEART



Dance of human love –  
Delight and joy  
foretaste of heaven.  
Despair and desolation  
foretaste of hell.  
Fear and trembling  
Foretaste of purgatory.

Not watching from afar I, Jesus, leapt to  
earth  
tasted Gethsemane  
Golgotha  
with you  
for you.

Now I extend My hand –  
Leap over your hell,  
your purgatory  
Meet Me in the air  
for the rapture!

# SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD



I carry You under my heart,  
a soft heavy presence  
slowing my steps.

I smile mysteriously  
like a woman with child –  
only other God-bearers understand.

## MIRROR



My daughter, my bride!  
to see your beauty,  
look not in the mirror  
on the wall.  
Look in My eyes!

## LORD OF MERCY



I followed You in sweetness  
down the road,  
all was well,  
so very well.

Then I lost You.  
The devil grabbed me fast,  
played with me like a toy.

I crawl along the path  
grasping Your garment  
in my dirty hands.

You turn,  
take me up,  
pry out the splinters,  
hold me close,  
and bid me sleep.

## DREAM DANCE



The invisible partner  
glimpsed  
in the yearning curves  
of the soloist's body.

Can you see my God  
in my silent form,  
outstretched palms?

## ON THE TRACK



Some days we are like  
Two parallel rails on a track  
Going from time to eternity.

The children ride heavily over us.  
Occasionally a gleam of light  
bounces from your track to mine  
or mine to yours.

We are together  
but do not touch  
and yet our love is dear.

# MARRIAGE



Bright sour peel.  
Sweet tasty pulp.  
Bruised brown dents.  
Tough inner core.  
Lovely smooth seeds.

## TRIANGLE



We sit  
at opposite ends  
of the pew  
eyes fixed  
on our Lord  
'til drawn  
by love  
He descends from His  
Pinnacle of pain.  
He rests each tortured  
hand in blessing  
on our heads,  
giving us His flesh  
to eat.  
We join in  
kiss of peace.  
A line,  
the shortest distance  
between two points.  
Christ,  
the shortest distance  
between two persons.



# TWENTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Memories of joy  
delight  
love  
sadness  
fear  
confusion  
boredom  
misery  
rage  
forgiveness  
hope  
tenderness  
laughter  
sweetness  
peace  
joyful  
sorrowful  
glorious  
mysteries –  
a rosary  
of Christ's  
sacrament.

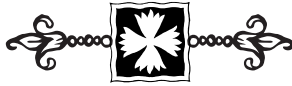
## STIGMATA OF FAMILY LIFE



Nailed to their needs  
pinioned to their demands  
inescapably wounded by their wounds  
you and they are one  
All on one tree  
to be delivered  
to eternity.

On a mystical ocean of tears,  
we swim toward each other –  
we, the harpooned of the Lord,  
heads far out of the water of the world,  
gasping for breath,  
supping on clouds –  
“Dying yet we live!”

# LOVE



Are you real?  
Or did I invent you  
in my loneliness?

I touch the rough edges  
and rest assured.

# SPIRITUAL ANESTHESIA



God puts me into a deep sleep,  
that without pain,  
He may re-arrange  
my disjointed syllables  
into a poem.

# ASCETICISM



Take away sentimentality,  
leave only sentiment.  
Take away verbosity,  
leave only the Word.  
Take away levity,  
leave only lightness.  
Take away self-pity  
leave only compassion.  
Take away flattery,  
leave only sweetness.  
Take away gratuity,  
leave only grace!

## BODY and SOUL



The soul  
berates the body:  
heavy baggage –  
would I were  
rid of you!

The body  
berates the soul:  
I, masterpiece  
of God,  
wonder why you,  
my soul, are such  
a jangling mess!

Become  
the abode  
of the Spirit.  
Then shall  
we be one,  
that God may  
resurrect us!

## OPEN WIDE MY HEART



Lord, open wide my heart –  
wider, wider!

Daughter,  
'tis not the door  
that's over narrow,  
but the parlor  
that is cold!

Let not a single  
unloving word  
pass your lips.  
Then shall  
your guests  
feel more at home!

## BREATHING IN THE SPIRIT



Smoggy thoughts  
choke my spirit.  
You bring me  
fresh mountain air.  
I gulp it down,  
then hyperventilate.

Dizzy I float  
suspended in Your heights,

Too light  
to make descent.

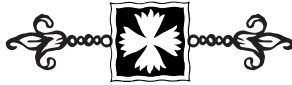
Too earthy  
to evaporate.

The angel whispers  
Breathe the sacred name:

Jesus – man/God,  
parachute and plane.

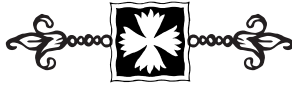


# HEARTBREAK



Tough old heart,  
how many times  
must you break  
before you make  
God take you?

# WHY?



Is it my adversary  
who stuffs my soul  
back in my body  
when I have given it to God'

Nay, it is God Himself  
who places me as His icon  
In the filthy city of men –

Would I be an iconoclast?

# GAMES CATHOLICS PLAY



Beaten in every other  
game of life –  
one day  
in idleness,  
I played at holiness.

You seized the chance –  
played all Your cards –  
the game of hearts.

## DID I EVER HAVE A CHOICE?



“My soul thirsts for thee, O Lord”

What is yearning?  
a rubber-band  
stretched from  
time to eternity?

Not so compact as a wish,  
nor as straight as an arrow,  
yearning spreads  
yet encompasses no object,  
bursts through flesh,  
yet is that flesh's cry.

Yearning,  
what are you made of?  
Are you echo  
of God's sigh?

# THE GIFT-GIVING SEASON



I wanted to send  
you my heart,  
but it was not really  
a practical gift.

It might come back  
marked “undeliverable – return to sender.”

Shall I go  
to the store  
and pick out  
an object instead?

## TUNNEL OF LOVE



Digging through  
the tunnel of time,  
sometimes I hear  
Your song loudly,  
sometimes faint.  
Sometimes my own  
is weak,  
sometimes a  
full-throated cry.

When we meet,  
no more signals.  
Deep silence  
as You carry me  
to eternity.

## HALF-BAKED



Better to be  
a fourth-rate poet  
than never one at all.

Better a growling  
mother bear  
than never have a cub.

Better a half-baked  
saint  
than never hear the call.

# BLIND, DEAF & NUMB



Blinded  
deafened  
numbed  
by the world

I beg Thee  
by-pass  
my senses  
and leap inside –

My Eucharistic Lord.



## ENEMY FOR LIFE?



In my enemy's house  
there is a little room  
where he sometimes goes to pray  
“forgive me my trespasses,  
as I forgive those...”

Is my picture on the wall?  
And when he comes out,  
does he, like me,  
look for small  
signs of change?

## “ALL IN THE FAMILY”



Some families are like hospitals.  
Everyone comes to Mommy-nurse with  
all their woes.

Some families are like schoolrooms.  
Each one takes turns  
giving lectures.

Some families are like battlefields.  
Armed for offense  
and defense.

Some are like debate societies.  
“I won, you lost –  
by fifty points!”

My family is like a stage.  
With five stars – all talk at once.  
No audience!

Families visit families...  
and chuckle condescendingly!

## PROCESS



Girl heart  
eager, adoring

Mother heart  
tender, troubled.

Middle-aged heart  
passionate, bitter

Grandmother heart  
large, soft

In-between  
uncertain, yearning.

## SPIRITUAL MENTOR



Your eyes  
from looking  
only at God  
no longer mirror  
the world.

I look at them  
and I see  
not a tiny miniature  
of my outer self  
but only God's love.

## SOME NIGHTS



Some nights  
All night  
awake  
I travel down  
the paths of  
my neuroses –  
dead end.  
Dead end,  
dead end.  
Exhausted  
I cry out:  
Lord, save me.  
In dark sleep  
the symbols  
flagellate  
each other.

Dawn brings  
new life.

## ON HOLD



Some days  
the activist  
and the contemplative  
in me get locked  
in wrestlehold.

Every project tastes  
like straw.  
Doing nothing causes  
vast unrest.

Have you put me  
“on hold”  
to have and to hold?

# ACT OF CONTRITION



By night I give you all,  
by day I take it back,  
    coin by coin  
in miserly egoism.

I hear You call me  
    hypocrite,  
    Judas-friend.

No, not true,  
for yet I weep.  
And so You call me  
    Peter,  
    Magdalene,  
dearest daughter,  
    not evil,  
    rather weak,  
    and Mine  
no matter what.

## SEASIDE MEDITATION



Shall I pick shells  
on the beach  
for my collection  
Or  
Hang-glide  
on Your cross  
as a saint?



## DETACHMENT



“My God and my All” – I pray,  
and yet I lean over the  
rail of the wedding barque,  
holding onto the dock  
with both hands!

“Let go!” You cry,  
“Blow a kiss goodbye.”

# ASCENSION



First the head dreams eternity,  
then the heart beats eternity,  
then the will clasps eternity,  
last the limbs leap eternity!

## OLD PILGRIM



When you come to the banks of time  
on the shores of the last river  
how shall you get across?

On a ferry of sighs?  
Astride a dolphin's back laughing?  
In a boat rowed by angels of love?

No. In the arms of Jesus  
walking on the water.



**Ronda proposed marshalling a volunteer holy water fire hose brigade for efficient facilitation of the mass baptisms forecast to follow the dissemination of this booklet.**

And Now:

Various Advice and Admonitions,  
Nostrums  
from Sages, Saints  
and Famous Writers

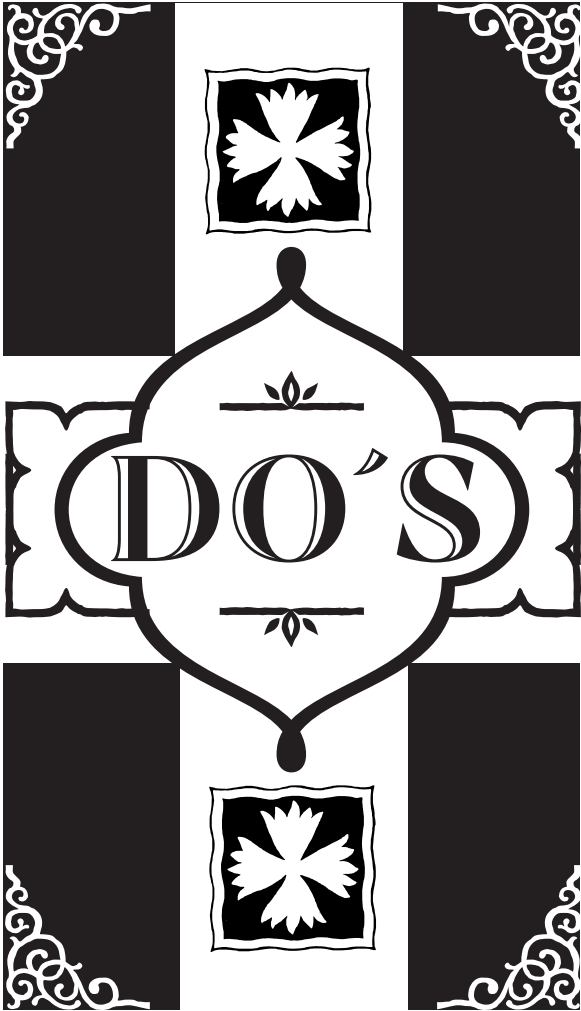
Assorted adages,  
aphorisms, axioms  
and apophthegms

Miscellaneous maxims,  
dictums and epigrams

Plenteous precepts  
and platitudes



**Perhaps, after reading thus far in this booklet,  
you now number yourself among Ronda's  
myriad admirers who compare her to a sacred  
archer, her author's pen the flaming arrow,  
her words its piercing point, her intellect  
the mighty bow that shoots the bolt of truth  
toward the reader's target heart.**






DO'S  
FROM FRIENDS

*(Note from Ronda:  
These selections are taken from thoughts I liked that  
happened to be sent to me while writing my blog  
a few years back.)*

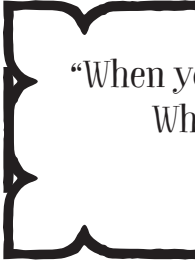
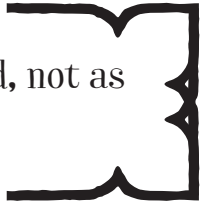




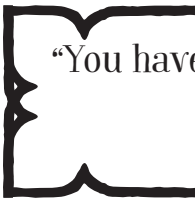
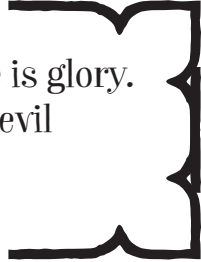
“Fly low, fly slow!”  
(Al Hughes)



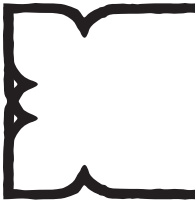
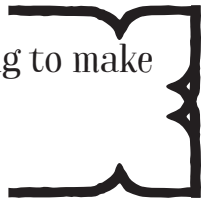
“Love oneself as a gift from God, not as  
God’s gift to the world.”  
(Mark Matuza)




“When you suffer with God there is glory.  
When you suffer with the devil  
there is hell.”  
(Mark Matuza)



“You have to mingle if you’re going to make  
friends.”  
(Budd Looper)



“See grace in others.”  
(Anon)



“Problems are to be solved, not to get hysterical over.”  
(Martin Chervin)

“Live simply so others can simply live.”  
(Anon)

“As a desert flower has dignity and beauty even if unseen, glorifying God, realize that we honor God, not by doing productive things, but just by being a free person.”

(James Meaney)

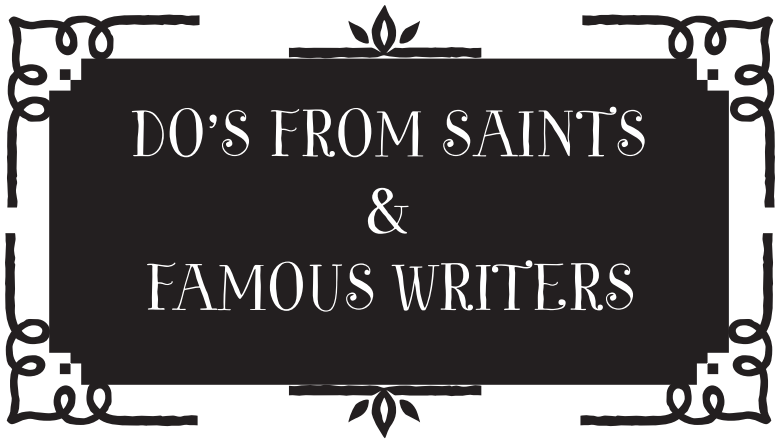
“Faith is not knowledge of the object but communication with it.”

(Don Colacho)

“If you don’t laugh at least 20 times a day, it hasn’t been a good day.”  
(Ujjwal Sharma)

“I used to be in the front seat trying really hard to be the driver thinking I was making really good time; now I am in the back seat and it is a great relief; I am leaving the driving to the Chief.”

(Chuck Girard)



DO'S FROM SAINT'S  
&  
FAMOUS WRITERS

“This is our daily bread (Holy Communion);  
take it daily, that it may profit thee daily;  
live, as to deserve to receive it daily.”

(St. Augustine)

“Merely to love things above is already to  
mount on high.”

(St. Gregory the Great)

“Happiness can only be achieved by looking  
inward and learning to enjoy whatever life  
has, and this requires transforming  
greed into gratitude.”

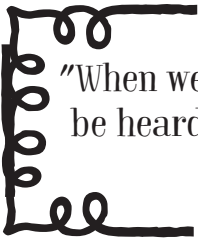
(St. John Chrysostom)

“Let us learn to cast our hearts into God.”


(St. Bernard)

“Help me to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown. Give me the faith to  
leave old ways and break  
fresh ground with You.”


(St. Brendan)



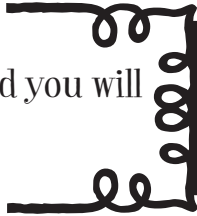
"When we pray, the voice of the heart must  
be heard more than the proceedings from  
the mouth."




(St. Bonaventure)



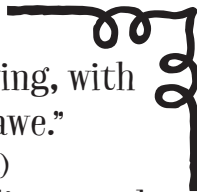
"Be who God meant you to be and you will  
set the world on fire."




(St. Catherine of Siena)



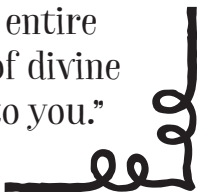
"Thanking is a new, inward knowing, with  
great reverence and loving awe."



(Blessed Julian(a) of Norwich)



"When you find yourself greatly distracted  
and devoid of devotion due to countless  
devil-inspired thoughts or because of  
your own heart's bitter passions or are  
disturbed by the unpleasantness of  
others... ask mercy of Jesus and of Mary,  
of the angelic host, and of the entire  
heavenly court, that the grace of divine  
consolation be again granted to you."



(Thomas à Kempis)

"In this mortal life, our peace consists in the humble bearing of suffering and contradictions, not in being free of them, for we cannot live in this world without adversity; those who can best suffer will enjoy the most peace, for such persons are masters of themselves, lords of the world, with Christ for their friend, and heaven as their reward."

(Thomas á Kempis)

"Happy the man whose words issue from the Holy Spirit and not from himself."

(St. Anthony of Padua)

"So abandon yourself utterly for the love of God, and in this way you will become truly happy."

(Blessed Henry Suso)

"Whenever anything disagreeable or displeasing happens to you, remember Christ crucified and be silent."

(St. John of the Cross)

“We crush the head of the serpent when we scorn and trample underfoot the glory of the world, the praises, the vanities and all the other pomps of pride.”

(Blessed Marie of the Incarnation)

St. Francis de Sales would leave off finishing a letter within a word in order to reply to an interruption.

“Have patience with all the world, but especially with yourself.”

(St. Francis de Sales)

“Commitment is doing what you said you would do, after the feeling you said it in has passed.”

(St. Camillus)

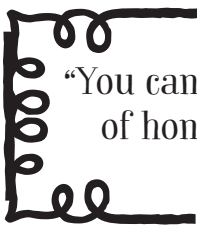
“The prayer of a sick person is his patience and his acceptance of the sickness for the love of Jesus Christ.”

(St. Charles of Sezze)

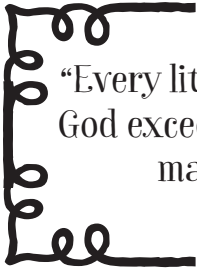





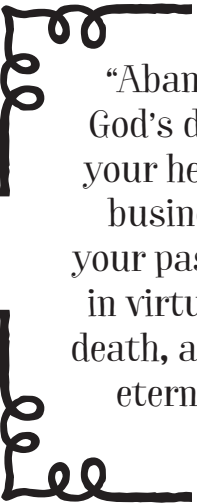
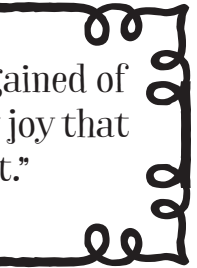
“Do small things with great love.”  
(St. Teresa of Calcutta)



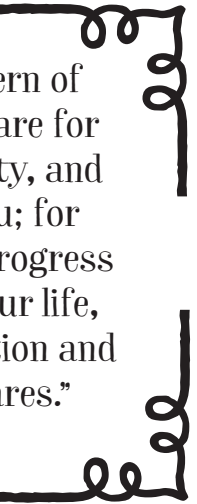
“You can catch more flies with a spoonful  
of honey than a barrelful of vinegar.”  
(St. Francis de Sales)



“Every little glimpse that can be gained of  
God exceeds every pain and every joy that  
man can conceive without it.”  
(St. Catherine of Genoa)



“Abandon to the fatherly concern of  
God’s divine providence every care for  
your health, reputation, property, and  
business; for those near to you; for  
your past sins; for your soul’s progress  
in virtue and love of him; for your life,  
death, and especially your salvation and  
eternity—in a word, all your cares.”  
(St. John Eudes)



“Let the crucifix be not only in my eyes  
and on my breast, but in my heart.”

(St. Bernadette)

“Hope is an eminently practical virtue;  
it is the virtue that drives far from our  
heart the specter of discouragement, the  
most frequent dangerous temptation  
in the spiritual life. As the inseparable  
companion of suffering, it confirms and  
strengthens peace in our soul.”

(Luis M. Martinez)

“When tempted to despair, I have only one  
resource: to throw myself at the foot of the  
tabernacle like a little dog at the foot of  
his master.”

(St. John Vianney)

“St. Paul tells us ‘Rejoice in the Lord, again  
I say rejoice’; the again is because we  
think we can’t rejoice and we think of all  
the reasons why we can’t, so we have to  
be reminded that even so we must rejoice,  
precisely in the Lord.”

(Soren Kierkegaard)

“We ought to speak, shout out against injustices, with confidence and without fear. We proclaim the principles of the Church, the reign of love, without forgetting that it is also a reign of justice.”

(Blessed Miguel Pro)

“God has called me not to be successful but to be faithful.”

(St. Teresa of Calcutta)

“I worry until midnight and from then on I let God worry.”

(Blessed Louis Guanella)

“The possession of a soul means the undisturbed mastery of oneself, which is the secret of inner peace, as distinguished from a thousand agitations which make it fearful, unhappy, and disappointed.”

(Fulton Sheen)

“For the aging person it is a duty and a necessity to give serious attention to himself. After having lavished its light upon the world, the sun withdraws its rays in order to illumine itself.

(Carl Jung)

“The most beautiful Credo is the one we pronounce in our hour of darkness.”

(St. Padre Pio)

“Be always merciful as I am merciful. Love everyone out of love for Me, even your greatest enemies, so that My mercy may be fully reflected in your heart.”

(Jesus to St. Faustina)

“My daughter, when I was before Herod, I obtained a grace for you; namely, that you would be able to rise above human scorn and follow faithfully in My footsteps; so be silent when they do not want to acknowledge your truth, because it is then that you speak more eloquently

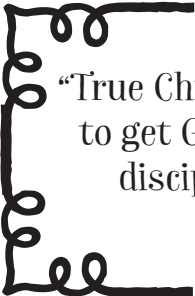
(Jesus to St. Faustina)



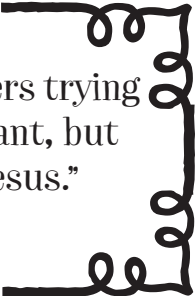
“Thou shalt love thy crooked neighbor  
with thy crooked heart.”



(Auden)



“True Christians are not customers trying  
to get God to give us what we want, but  
disciples, wanting to be like Jesus.”



(Richard Wurmbrand)



**Ronda is emphatic as to how each page of this little booklet is like unto a bucket repeatedly dipping into the ancient cistern of wisdom for generous drafts of its sparkling waters.**





DON'T'S  
FROM FRIENDS



“Vindictiveness is the venom that oozes  
out of the fangs of injustice.”  
(Mark Matuza)

“If you can’t be kind, be quiet.”  
(Pat Looper)

“Don’t bundle up your anxieties and  
worship them!”  
(Al Hughes)

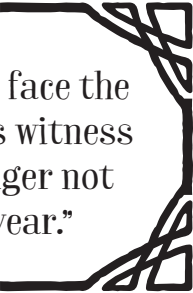
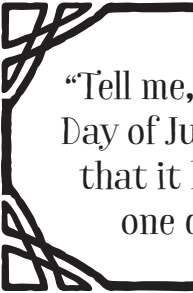
“Don’t think less of yourself, but  
think of yourself less!”  
(Fr. Dennis Kolinski)

“Worry is interest on a loan not received.”  
(Ken Justice)

“When chocolate candies tempt me, and I  
think I can’t say ‘no’, that is a comfortable  
cop-out I will learn not to use.”  
(James Meaney)



DON'T'S FROM SAINTS  
& FAMOUS WRITERS




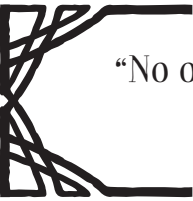
“Tell me, how are we two going to face the Day of Judgement when the sun is witness that it has gone down on our anger not one day but for many a long year.”

(St. Jerome)



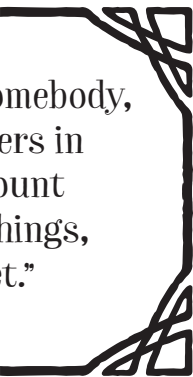
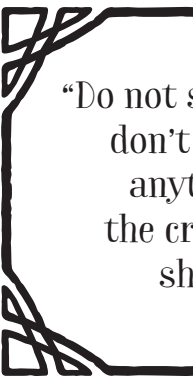
“Gluttony is hypocrisy of the stomach; filled, it moans about scarcity; stuffed and crammed, it wails about hunger.”

(St. John Climacus)



“No one can be healed by wounding another.”

St. Ambrose



“Do not seek to be regarded as somebody, don't compare yourself to others in anything; leave the world, mount the cross, discard all earthly things, shake the dust off your feet.”

(St. Barsanuphius)

“In order to avoid discord,  
never contradict anyone  
except in case of sin  
or some danger to a neighbor.”  
( St. Louis, King of France)

“There is no sin nor wrong that gives a  
man such a foretaste of hell in this life as  
anger and impatience.”  
(St. Catherine of Siena)

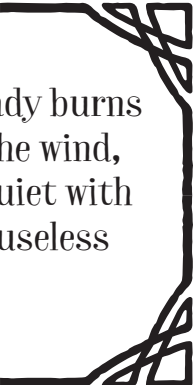
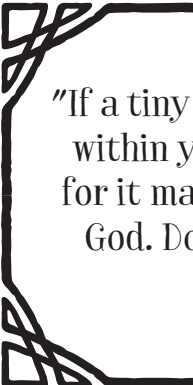
“When it seems that God shows  
us the faults of others... let silence abide...  
he will correct himself better seeing himself  
gently understood, and will say of his own  
accord the things you would  
have said to him.”  
(St. Catherine of Siena)

“Let nothing disturb you, no  
thing cause you fear; all things pass;  
God is unchanging; patience obtains all -  
whoever has God needs nothing else;  
God alone is enough.”  
(St. Teresa of Avila)



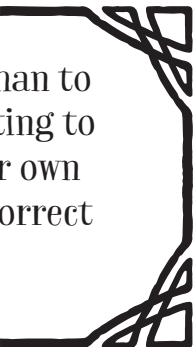
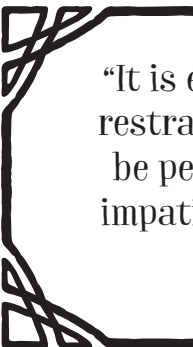
“He that complains or murmurs is not perfect, nor is he even a good Christian.”

(St. John of the Cross)




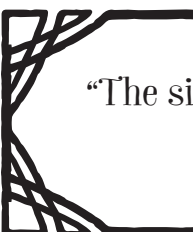
“If a tiny spark of God’s love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out... Stay quiet with God. Do not spend your time in useless chatter.”

(St. Charles Borromeo)



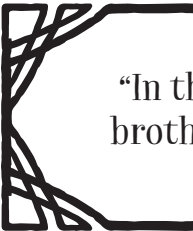
“It is easier to become angry than to restrain oneself...It is more fitting to be persistent in punishing our own impatience and pride than to correct (others.)”

(St. John Bosco)

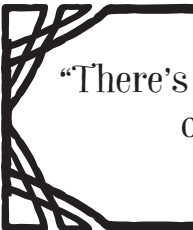



“The sins of others should cause us to weep, not to gossip!”

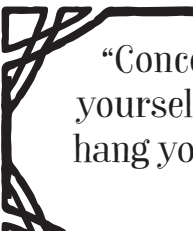
(Kierkegaard)



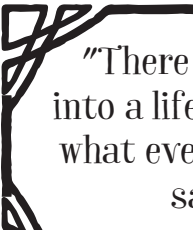
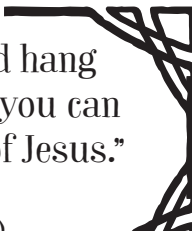
“In those around you, you don’t see  
brothers; you see stepping stones.”  
(St. Jose Escriva)



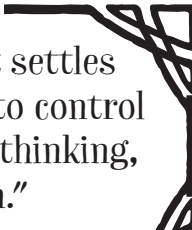
“There’s got to be a statute of limitations  
on anger at your parents.”  
(Jane Fonda)

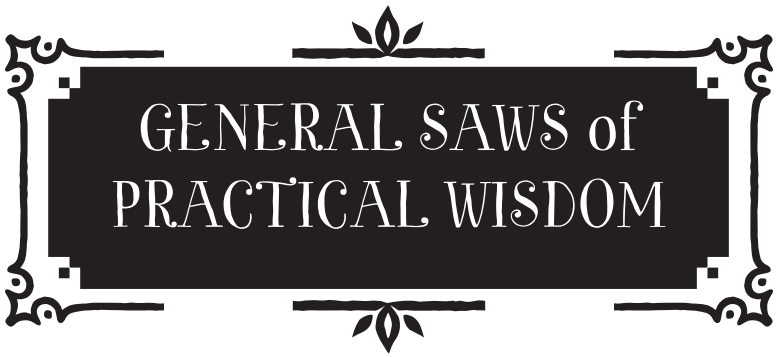


“Concerning despair, you could hang  
yourself like Judas on a tree, or you can  
hang yourself around the neck of Jesus.”  
(Alice Von Hildebrand  
quoting from someone else.)



“There is a certain wisdom that settles  
into a life that does not attempt to control  
what everybody else ought to be thinking,  
saying, doing or voting on.”  
(Martin Laird)



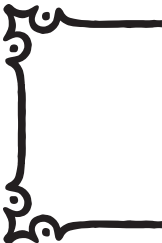


GENERAL SAWS of  
PRACTICAL WISDOM





**Due to prolonged exposure to the laid-back temperament of her Texan aficionados, her daily exercises in docility, obedience and detachment have introduced into her prayer life a new level of spiritual restfulness she would later describe as akin to being slain in the Spirit.**





“Things of the world have  
expiration dates.”

(Mark Matuza)




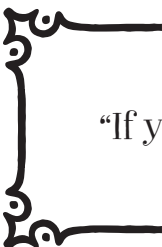
“Even a blind squirrel gets an acorn  
once in a while.”

(Dan Looper)





“What is God trying to reveal you  
this moment.”

(Fr. Mike Phillippino)



“If you’ve never really cried, then you  
can’t laugh either.”

(Budd Looper)



“When I turned 70, when it rains,  
I let it.”

(Anon)

“I have learned to see how right others  
were once I went through the pain of  
seeing myself wrong!”

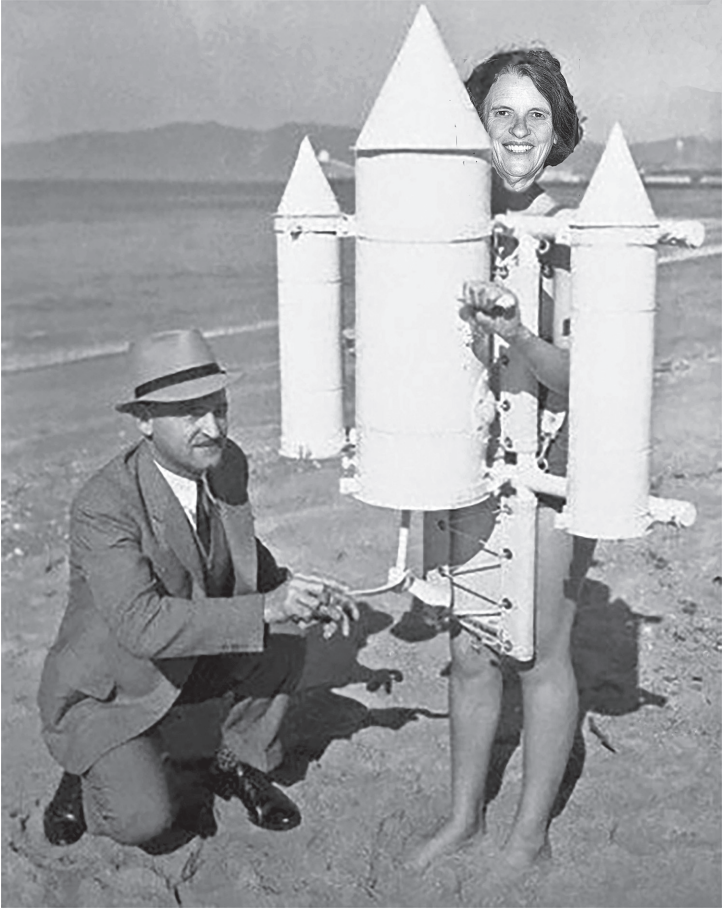
(Budd Looper)

On the humorous side from a graffiti at a  
toilet at Niagara Falls in 1952!:

Here I sit  
Broken hearted  
Paid a nickel  
And only farted!

“It takes all kinds to make a world,’ is an  
adage: so rejoice in your own talents and  
be grateful for those of others that you  
don’t have but rely on.”

(Anon)



**Ronda has long since abandoned the popular “Rocketive Way” program promoted by her former spiritual advisor which he designed to expressly bypass the purgative and illuminative stages and hasten directly into the loftier levels of enlightenment in the mystical stratas of the unitive heights.**



SAYINGS FROM SAINTS  
& FAMOUS AUTHORS

“Hope always draws the soul from the beauty that is seen to what is beyond, always kindles the desire for the hidden through what is perceived.”

(St. Gregory of Nyssa)

“Restless are our hearts until they rest in Thee.”

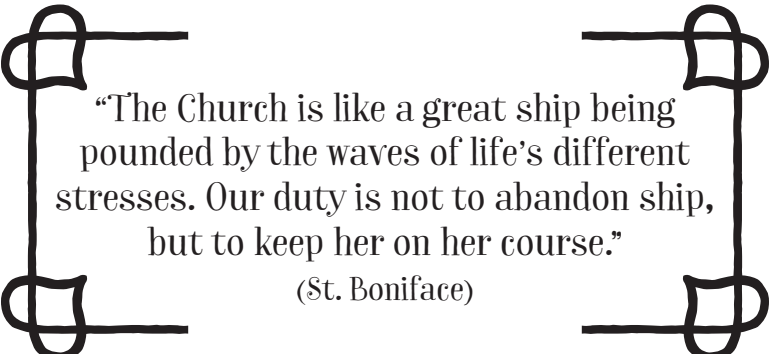
(St. Augustine)

“God is not a deceiver that he should offer to support us, and the, when we lean on him, should slip away from us.”

(St. Augustine)

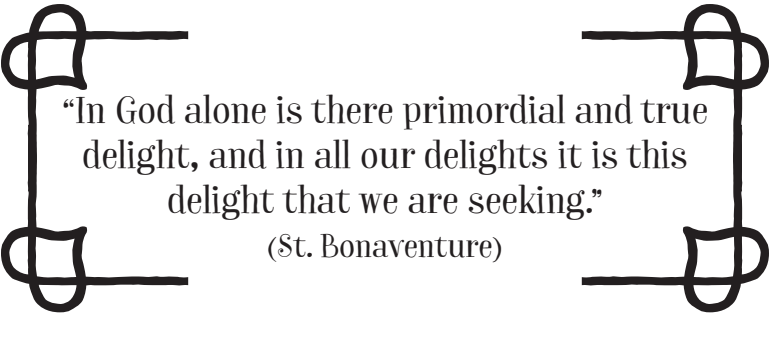
Let your old age be childlike, and your childhood like old age; that is, so that neither may your wisdom be with pride, nor your humility without wisdom.

(St. Augustine)



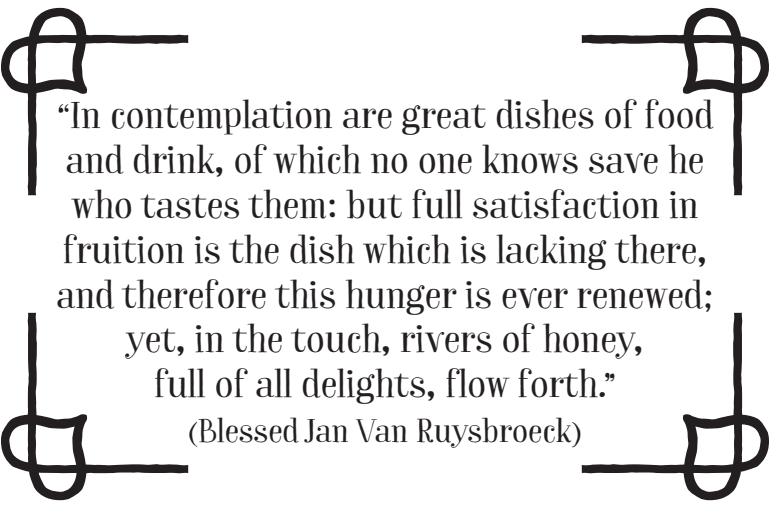
“The Church is like a great ship being  
pounded by the waves of life’s different  
stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship,  
but to keep her on her course.”

(St. Boniface)



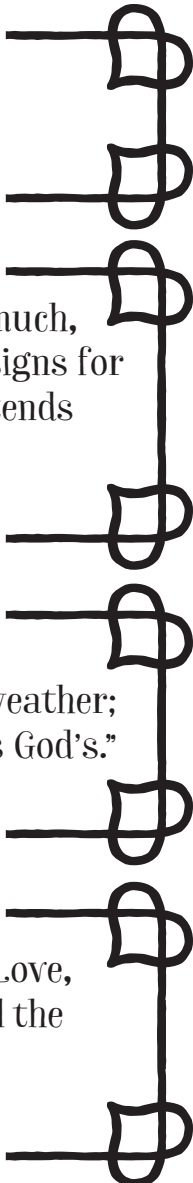

“In God alone is there primordial and true  
delight, and in all our delights it is this  
delight that we are seeking.”

(St. Bonaventure)



“In contemplation are great dishes of food  
and drink, of which no one knows save he  
who tastes them: but full satisfaction in  
fruition is the dish which is lacking there,  
and therefore this hunger is ever renewed;  
yet, in the touch, rivers of honey,  
full of all delights, flow forth.”

(Blessed Jan Van Ruysbroeck)



“God alone is enough.”  
(St. Teresa of Avila)

“If God causes you to suffer much,  
it is a sign that He has great designs for  
you, and that He certainly intends  
to make you a saint.”  
(St. Ignatius Loyola)



“There is no such thing as bad weather;  
all weather is good because it is God’s.”  
(St. Teresa of Avila)

“In the royal galley of Divine Love,  
there are no galley slaves: all the  
towers are volunteers.”  
( St. Francis de Sales)





“I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of God.”

(St. Margaret Mary Alacoque)



“The Divine Heart is an ocean full of all good things, wherein poor souls can cast all their needs; it is an ocean full of joy to drown all our sadness, an ocean of humility to drown our folly, an ocean of mercy to those in distress, an ocean of love in which to submerge our poverty.”

(St. Margaret Mary Alacoque)

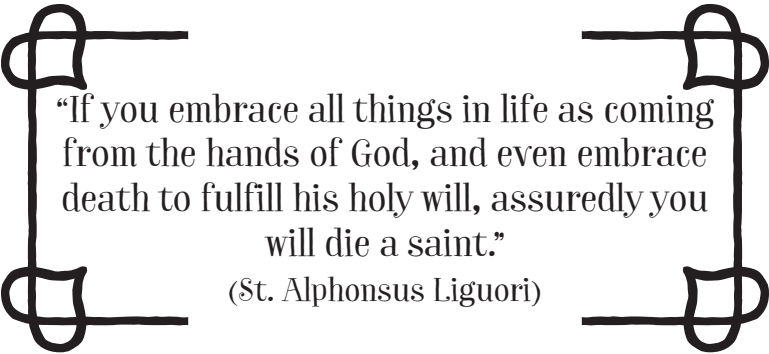


“I see clearly with the interior eye, that the sweet God loves with a pure love the creature that He has created, and has a hatred for nothing but sin, which is more opposed to Him than can be thought or imagined.

(St. Catherine of Genoa)

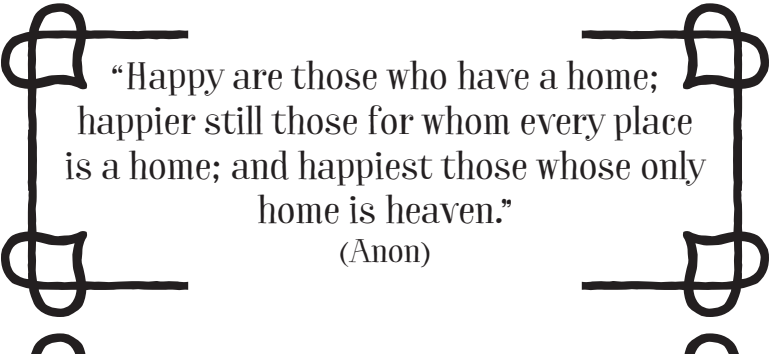






“If you embrace all things in life as coming from the hands of God, and even embrace death to fulfill his holy will, assuredly you will die a saint.”

(St. Alphonsus Liguori)



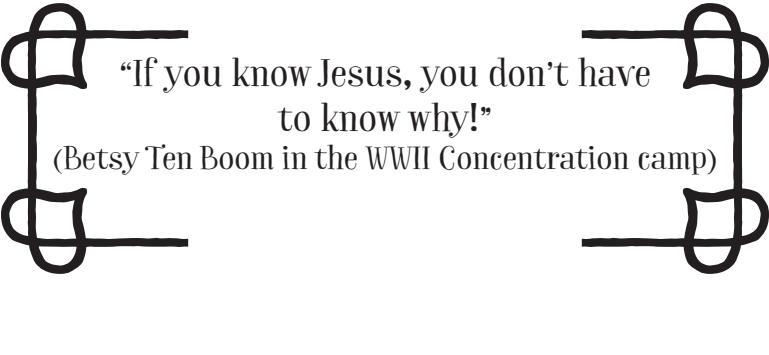
“Happy are those who have a home; happier still those for whom every place is a home; and happiest those whose only home is heaven.”

(Anon)



“We are grasped by what we cannot grasp.”

(Rilke)



“If you know Jesus, you don't have to know why!”

(Betsy Ten Boom in the WWII Concentration camp)

Sister Faustina was told by Jesus: "Why are you fearful and why do you tremble when you are united to Me....I am displeased when a soul yields to vain terrors... who will dare to touch you when you are with Me?"

(Diary, 453)

"If you are looking for justice you will find it in hell; in heaven is mercy and on earth is the cross."


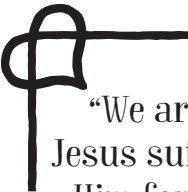
(Gertrude Von Le Fort)

"So you have failed; you cannot fail; you have not failed: you have gained experience, forward!"

(St. Jose Escriva)



"I have found the paradox that, if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only love."

(St. Teresa of Calcutta)



“We are not to be without pain. Pain is Jesus suffering in us, but we are to look to Him for strength and courage. We are to learn this ability to shoulder our cross by gazing at Him and being gentle and humble in heart.”


(Mother Angelica)



“The Eucharist bridges the gap between fallen humanity and redeemed humanity and prepares us for our glorified humanity in Christ’s second coming.”

(Kathleen Beckman)





ADAGES IN CLOSING  
APROPOS THE APPROACH  
TO THE FINAL LEAP



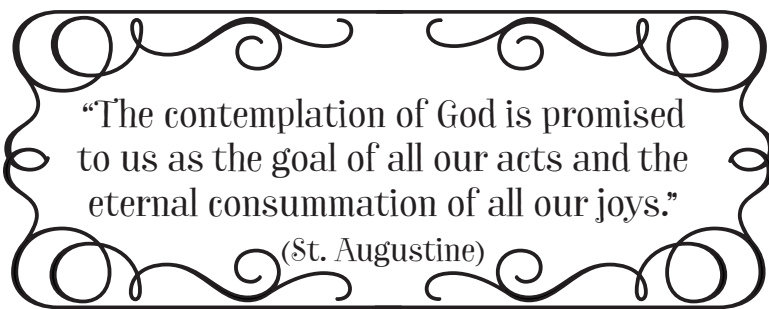
It is for him to fear death who is not willing  
to go to Christ."

(St. Cyprian)



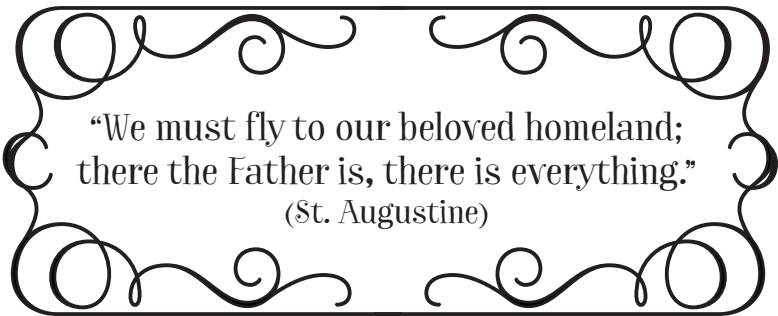
"The Lord has turned all our sunsets into  
sunrise."

(St. Clement)



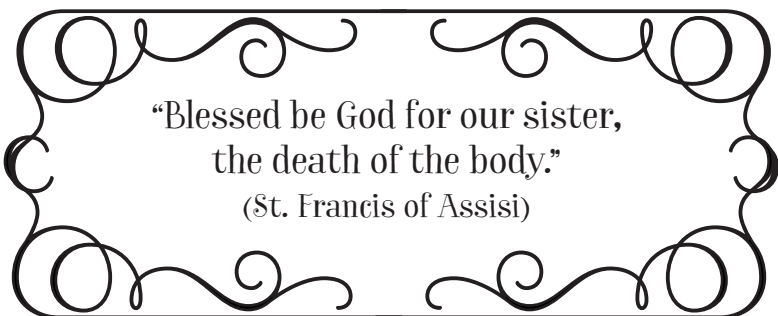
"The contemplation of God is promised  
to us as the goal of all our acts and the  
eternal consummation of all our joys."

(St. Augustine)



“We must fly to our beloved homeland;  
there the Father is, there is everything.”

(St. Augustine)



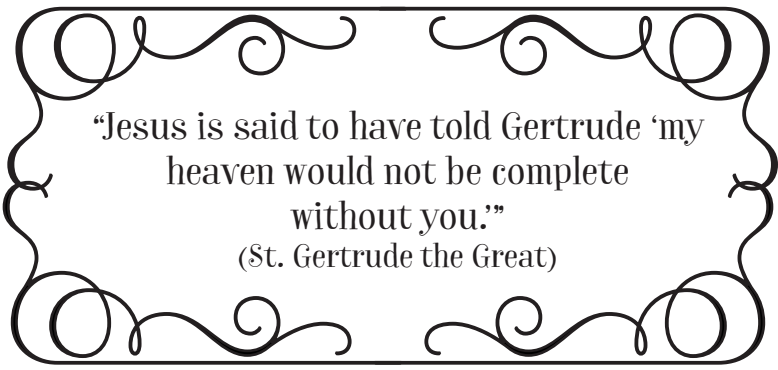
“Blessed be God for our sister,  
the death of the body.”

(St. Francis of Assisi)

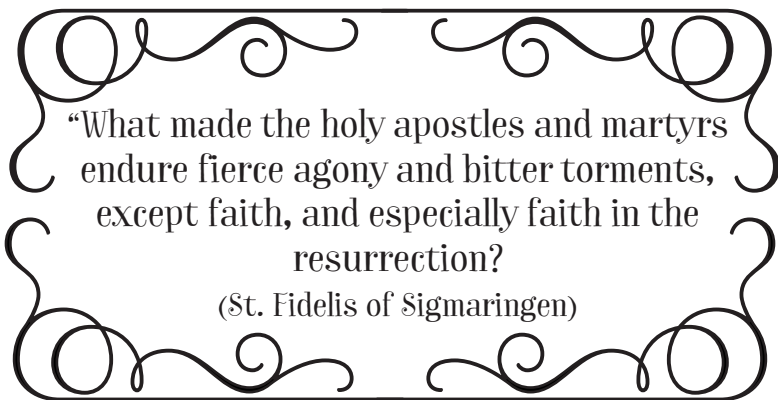


“The soul ran out originally from God’s  
heart and must needs return there.”

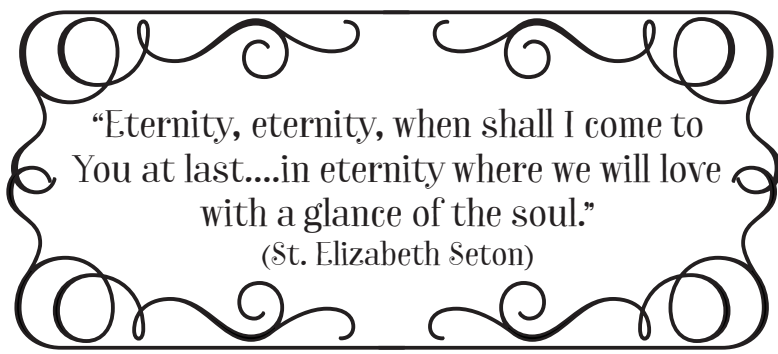
(St. Mechtild of Magdeburg)



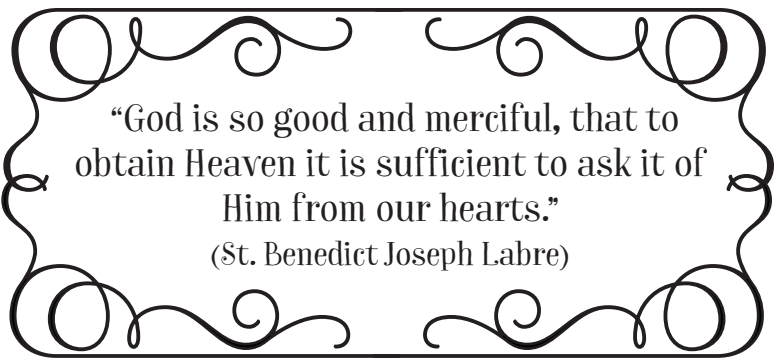
“Jesus is said to have told Gertrude ‘my  
heaven would not be complete  
without you.’”  
(St. Gertrude the Great)



“What made the holy apostles and martyrs  
endure fierce agony and bitter torments,  
except faith, and especially faith in the  
resurrection?”  
(St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen)

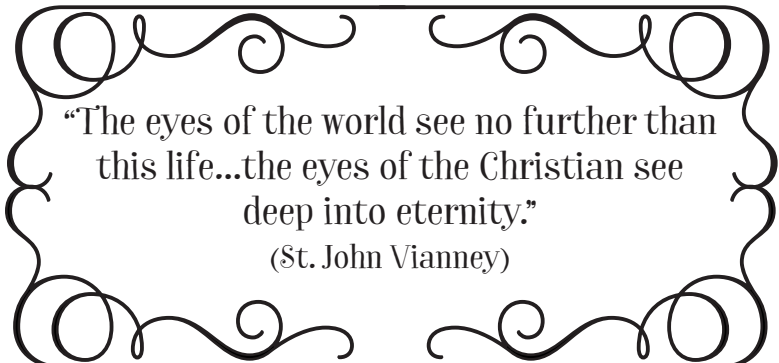


“Eternity, eternity, when shall I come to  
You at last....in eternity where we will love  
with a glance of the soul.”  
(St. Elizabeth Seton)



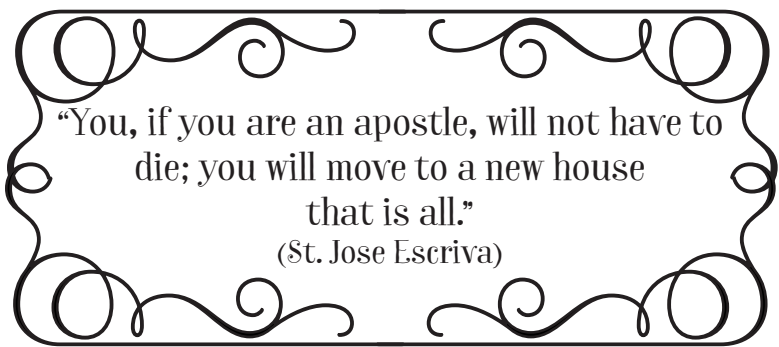
“God is so good and merciful, that to  
obtain Heaven it is sufficient to ask it of  
Him from our hearts.”

(St. Benedict Joseph Labre)



“The eyes of the world see no further than  
this life...the eyes of the Christian see  
deep into eternity.”

(St. John Vianney)



“You, if you are an apostle, will not have to  
die; you will move to a new house  
that is all.”

(St. Jose Escriva)





“If I get to heaven before you do, I’ll dig  
a little hole and pull you through.”

(Old Gospel Song)



