

Transitions

Summer is my season. Autumn... well, autumn is something to get through to get to winter, which has hope because it leads to spring. I realize I'm in the minority; most of my friends love fall and its crisp weather and brilliant colors (not to mention pumpkin spice latte). So my pledge to myself is to celebrate this autumn rather than to endure it, with some help from you. Please [let me know](#) some of your favorite parts of fall, and I'll share them here next month!

Friends in Faith: Liz Schiavone

Liz Schiavone has a passion for service—and she does it well, very well. Her main focus is her husband, Angelo, and their five adult children and grandchildren. But somehow, she manages to work a full-time job (with a commute of 30 minutes each way) and serve on a number of committees and boards, including as province director for the [National Council of Catholic Women](#). I don't think the woman ever sleeps! What inspires me most about Liz is that she's always available when I need advice on who to talk with about my ministry to Catholic women over forty, and the best way to share the information. She's one of my key sounding boards, and is always thoughtful, prayerful, and positive.



Who Inspires You?

Blessed Anna Kolesarova: Finding Inspiration in Tragedy

In a stadium today in the eastern Slovakia city of Kosice, a young woman who was martyred in 1944 is being beatified. Tomorrow, [Anna Kolesarova's](#) relics will be transferred to St. Elisabeth Cathedral, pictured here. Anna was only sixteen when Soviet soldiers entered the village where the family lived. They



and their neighbors hid in a cellar in hopes of going unnoticed, but were unsuccessful. Anna was instructed to get food for one of the soldiers, and the man then shot her to death when she refused to have sex with him.

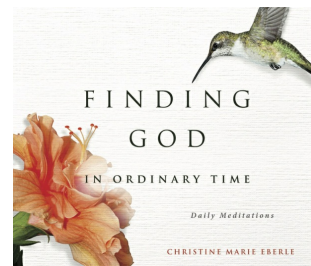
It's a sad story, but what has happened since is inspirational. Hundreds of young people each year come to [Domček](#), a pastoral center established in her honor. It provides retreats, workshops and other activities for those wishing to emulate her purity.

I'll be writing a bit more about her later this month in my Wednesday's Woman feature (short profiles of beatified and canonized women).

Wednesday's Women

On the Nightstand: *Finding God in Ordinary Time*

I've always had a thing for Ordinary Time--in theory. For Catholics, it's the time outside the major liturgical seasons such as Lent, Easter, Advent, and so on, the the time when weeks are numbered (ordinal). It would seem that outside of those busy seasons, there's more time for God. Except, of course, there's always an excuse for not making that happen, right? That's why I'm really excited about my study plan for September, [Christine Eberle's](#) *Finding God in Ordinary Time*. I found out about Christine from a friend who heard her speak earlier this year, and as a result we've had some delightful email exchanges. In addition to reading her book, I'm looking forward to meeting Christine in person next month at the [Future with Hope Women's conference](#).



What's on Your Nightstand?

You Might Be Interested in:

- An interview Whitney Hople did for my website with Mary Elizabeth Sperry about her great book [Making Room for God: Decluttering and the Spiritual Life](#).
- The [Future with Hope Women's conference](#) at my parish here in Arlington, VA, Oct. 12-13.



Blessings on your September, and I hope to hear from you! In Christ, Melanie

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Other ways to keep the conversation going:

