

Of saints, friends, books, and what's going on in my crazy life.



Nataliia Romashova

May Day! May Day!

They didn't look quite this nice, but when we were growing up, my sister Maureen (whose birthday happens to be today) and I would race around the neighborhood on May 1, delivering May Day baskets as quietly and secretly as we could. Generally, they were purchased as part of a church fundraiser. I miss those days... but they came back alive a bit when I gave my sister flowers for her birthday. Here's to a beautiful month for one and all!

Women Saints of the Americas

Later this month, I'll be sharing a brief profile of St. Maria Guadalupe Garcia Zavala, co-founder of the Handmaids of St. Margaret Mary and the Poor in Mexico. Madre Lupita, as she was known, died in 1963 and was canonized in May 2013. What speaks to me about Madre Lupita is that the only "side" she took was the Lord's. The congregation's hospital was a haven for priests during the early twentieth century when Catholics were persecuted in Mexico. But the hospital also cared for government soldiers who were injured, who in turn later protected the hospital when it came under attack. Madre Lupita reminds me that not only are we called to love our enemies, we also need to stop and consider whether people truly are our enemies and view disharmony as an opportunity for evangelization and reconciliation. This [YouTube video](#) provides a current look at the hospital (including its chapel); you can see an image of Madre Lupita about five minutes into the video.

See the Wednesday's Woman entries in my blog.

Friends in Faith

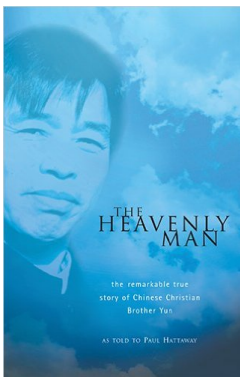
About eighteen months ago, I was looking for someone to help me organize some saints quotes into an ebook for new newsletter subscribers to receive. I reached out to a fellow [Capital Christian Writers](#) member for recommendations, and she introduced me to Whitney Hopler. What a blessing! Whitney did a super job with the quotes, and also did much of the research and inputting for the women [saints database](#) at my website. Whitney also is now providing author interviews here, starting with [Karen Edmisten](#).



Whitney is a careful, lovely faith-filled writer who produces the [About.com](#) angels and miracles site and wrote the young adult novel *Dream Factory*, which is set during Hollywood's golden age. But what I most admire about her is that the Lord and caring for her family come first in her life.

Which of your friends inspires you?

On the Nightstand



A friend from my parish provided great recommendations for reading in March and April, so I'm turning to another friend for May. Trudy and I have known each other for several years, and she's remarked more than once on the story of Brother Yun, the exiled Chinese Christian house church leader and evangelist. This month, I'll be taking on his autobiography, *The Heavenly Man*.

I think about the people like Brother Yun and those whose names we don't know who day in, day out, take risks in living their faith. I admire their strength and courage... and wonder if I could do the same. I hope I never have to find out.

What's on your nightstand?

What's Going On?

On May 12, I'll be "home" at my parish, St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1910 N. Randolph St. in Arlington, for an evening of wine, refreshments, and friendship. I'll be speaking on Women Saints and the Year of Mercy: What They Want Us to Know, and there will be time for discussion as well. The evening is sponsored by St. Agnes Walking with Purpose, a women's Bible study program I've really been enjoying. If you're in the area, please join us at 7:30 p.m.!

Also, I'm humbled to share that Women in the New Evangelization has chosen *Blessed Are You* as its summer book club read. I hope you'll consider participating, virtually or with women in your neighborhood. Find out more [here](#).

May God bless you exceedingly! --Melanie

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