

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

## All You Holy Women, Pray for Us



They were mothers, wives, women religious, slaves, rulers, children, seamstresses, shop owners, social workers, writers, nurses... the list goes on and on. Thousands of them have been formally canonized by the Catholic Church... millions or even billions more haven't been, but they are holy nonetheless. Some of them are still walking among us today... and we ourselves are called to holiness in the way we live our lives, worshiping the Lord above all other things and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Happy All Saints Day!

### **"At all events, I shall patiently wait to see what God does." -- Blessed Pauline Mallinckrodt**

Patience and faith are so inextricably intertwined that, I would contend, it's pretty much impossible to have one without the other. Patience illumines God's plan; faith in Him makes the waiting bearable. I've yet to encounter the saint who despite his or her earthly actions, emotions, and conflicts did not move closer to the Lord and His people by learning to wait.

Later this month, I'm going to be blogging a bit about Pauline Mallinckrodt, the 19th-century German founder of the Sisters of Christian Charity. (She also came to the United States on two occasions, one to establish the community's U.S. motherhouse in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.)

She knew from an early age she was called to religious life, but delayed becoming a sister to care for her family after her mother's death. And after her community's founding, Pauline persevered through Germany's Kulturkampf, when religious orders experienced significant limitations on their activities.



Pauline never stopped working for God, but she was confident in His plan and leadership. May we do the same in these times of disharmony and contentiousness.

To learn more about women saints and blessed, [see the Wednesday's Woman entries in my blog.](#)

## Friends in Faith: Carol Monaco

Carol Monaco is driven--driven to bring people closer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She's the writer/editor of *Journey to Our Lady*, a periodic publication that seeks to do just that through lovely prayers and essays, and is the author of a lovely little book, *Heavenly Mother Help Me: Prayers, Poetry, and Prose for Daily Living*. In addition to her writing ministry (which also includes a column at *Catholic Stand*), Carol is a longtime volunteer with the Association Jeanne Jugan, which supports the Little Sisters of the Poor.



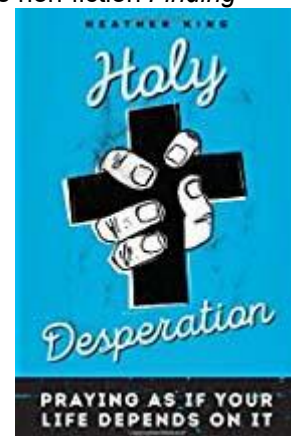
Recently, Carol's taken on new aspects of service with public speaking and social media. I love to watch her stepping out into these uncharted waters, knowing the Lord and the Blessed Mother are the best life preserver ever. Carol reminds me not to be fearful to follow where He leads.

Which of your friends inspires you?

## On the Nightstand: Heather King... Maybe

I'll be doing a lot more writing than reading this month... working on the non-fiction *Finding Your Woman of Worth* manuscript due to the publisher in March, getting a novel proposal out to a literary agent, and maybe getting back to a different novel-in-progress (because who doesn't think fiction during [National Novel Writing Month](#)?) along with the usual blog posts and the like.

But *if* I find few reading minutes outside all that, Bible study, and the rest of life, I'm going to start on *Holy Desperation: Praying as If Your Life Depends on It* by Heather King. King's become a favorite author of mine; in the past several months, I've devoured her *Shirt of Flame* and *Stripped*. To read more about King's latest book, check out her [interview](#) with Whitney Hopler on my blog. And remember... our lives do depend on prayer!



## We Gather Together...

Something you probably don't know about me is that at one point, I was an avid genealogist and contributor to *Family Tree* magazine. It's an interest I want to get back to in retirement, whenever that is.

Anyway, I've got a couple of dozen ancestors who fought in the American Revolution (no one famous), and a couple of possible Mayflower links to explore. Maybe that's why since childhood, Thanksgiving has been one of my favorite holidays. There were years I cooked for a dozen or more people, and loved it.



This Thanksgiving, like most of those I've spent in Arlington, will be quiet. Mass in the morning. Maybe some writing sans radio or music in the afternoon, or a movie (two years ago, it was *Faustina*). And lots of prayers of gratitude.

May your Thanksgiving be full of love... and joy! --Melanie

Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.

STAY CONNECTED:



Melanie Rigney, 4201 Wilson Blvd. #110328, Arlington, VA 22203

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [melanie@rejoicebeglad.com](mailto:melanie@rejoicebeglad.com) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today