

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

## Lamb of God, Who Takes Away the Sin of the World...



I'll admit it. I'm a sucker for photos of babies of all kinds, humans and animals. This lamb speaks to me because of the way it's staring into the camera. It seems fascinated by what's going on... or perhaps it's confident that Mama will make sure everything is all right. I think of the way that Jesus, the Lamb of God, went to His death, faithful and confident in the Father's plan, even as His physical body was battered. May the remainder of your Lenten journey deepen your faith and confidence.

## "Lord, my sweet Lord, receive me"--Blessed Colomba of Rieti

Her birth name was Angelella, but when the child was being baptized, a dove flew to the font. And from that day on, the child would be known as Colomba ("dove" in Italian).

Colomba's story is a complex one. Her practice of self-mortification is said to have begun at the age of three, when she put thorn branches under her sheet.

Personal challenges notwithstanding, Colomba became known for her wisdom and piety, and cities vied to be this Dominican tertiary's home. On the flip side of that, she was accused of witchcraft and at one point was removed as prioress of her community (then was reinstated).

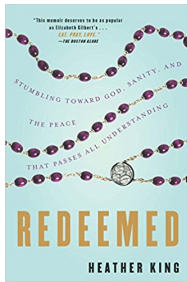


Like Colomba, I struggle with moderation. I am inspired that despite her struggles, she said the words above on her deathbed in 1501, confident of His love and open arms. I'll be blogging a bit more about her this month. To check out earlier blogs on beatified and canonized women, check out the [Wednesday's Woman](#) section of my website. You also may enjoy the 600+ thumbnail sketches in my [Saints Database](#).

## On the Nightstand: *Redeemed: Stumbling Toward God, Sanity, and the Peace that Passes All Understanding*

I have become a Heather King groupie. It started last summer when I read perhaps her best-known work, *Shirt of Flame*, followed by *Stripped: At the Intersection of Cancer, Culture, and Christ*, my favorite book of 2017.

In March, I'll be reading her book *Redeemed*. In flipping through some early pages, I found this beautiful passage: "To me, the Fall doesn't mean I'm



bad (though in one way I actually am pretty bad) and that God hates me. It means I'm broken and I need help." Amen, Heather!

*What's on your nightstand?*

## In Like a Lion

As you read this, I'll be in Iowa, visiting my niece and some other friends and talking about women saints and Lent on **March 1** at [Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish](#) in Ankeny. I'm excited about this trip, and sharing stories of the ladies.

The weekend of March 9-11 is full of richness. I'll be at the [Leaving a Legacy](#) spiritual retreat in the Shenandoah Valley... and popping over to Reston, VA, for our [annual diocesan women's conference](#) featuring Diane Foley, mother of slain journalist James Foley.

May you make the most of March's bounty! --Melanie

Copyright © 2018. 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