

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



"Rabboni!"

Hello friends! Welcome back! I saw this marvelous sculpture at Rock Creek Cemetery in DC last spring for the first time. Gutzon Borglum (who also created Mount Rushmore in my home state of South Dakota) sculpted "Rabboni" for the gravesite of a prominent banker . It's Mary Magdalene on Easter morning, after Jesus has called her by name. Like Mary, we don't always recognize Jesus in our lives. But when He calls to us, may we always follow.

Women Saints and Mercy

A little later this month, I'll be writing about Blessed Agnes of Phila, one of the martyrs of Thailand, and the spiritual act of admonishing sinners. She died the day after Christmas in 1940. When she and another sister were threatened by authorities, Agnes asked if they had enough bullets to kill all Christ's followers... and whether their gun barrels were sufficiently oiled. In fact, she sent the authorities a vial of oil along with a letter saying she would be praying for them when they came to take the Christians away. Agnes told them: "You can kill us, but not the Church or God." I so admire her in-your-face faith and confidence in the Lord.

[See the Wednesday's Woman entries in my blog.](#)



By Rikker04 -
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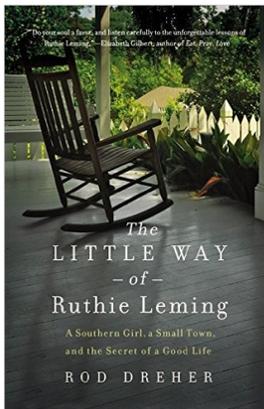
Friends in Faith

Mary Catherine Craige and I met last summer at a [Blessed Is She](#) brunch. Maybe it's because we're both writers, but something about us clicked immediately, even though I'm thirty-odd years older. (I told her she could call me her old-lady friend, but she graciously refused to do so.) Mary Catherine is thoughtful, and better educated about theology than I could ever hope to be. These are wonderful things. But what I find particularly inspirational about her is her willingness to open herself up to new ways to experience God. This is her year of exploring art, and she's already created some wonderful drawings and sculpture. Mary Catherine shows me the joy in trusting in God... and following where He leads.



Which of your friends inspires you?

On the Nightstand



My parish, [St. Agnes](#) in Arlington, VA, is one of many in the country offering [Walking with Purpose](#), a Catholic women's Bible study program. In addition to really meaningful discussion of Scripture each week, I look forward to the social time beforehand and getting to know some wonderful women. One of my new friends, Kathy, lent me her copy of [The Little Way of Ruthie Leming](#), and I've waited to start it until March so I'll have time to savor it. Kathy was very moved by the story of Philadelphia journalist Rod Dreher's trip home to small-town Louisiana after his younger sister's death and his encounter with grace and community, and I'm sure I will as well. How profound to think of the ways we continue to help loved ones even after we leave this earth.

What's on your nightstand?

What's Going On?

February was a blur, all of it good. This weekend, a friend and I are headed to Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley to help with a [Cursillo](#) women's Weekend.

The following weekend, I'll be speaking and evaluating manuscripts at one of my favorite places, the [Bay to Ocean Writers Conference](#) in Wye Mills, MD. If you're a writer, do consider checking it out. One of my sisters and I will do a little outlet shopping afterward, which will make the weekend even nicer.

May God bless you exceedingly! --Melanie

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