

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

Rain, Road Trips, and Replenishment



Happy August! This is much like the view outside my home office window right now. We had a big cloud burst about an hour ago... right in time to cause me to rearrange my plans for the evening... and slow down. Very annoying in the moment, but I suspect there was a message in that. (Do you think??)

Women Saints of the Americas: Maria Troncatti

In a couple weeks, I'll be writing about Blessed Maria Troncatti, who walked the earth during many of our lifetimes. (She died in a plane crash in Ecuador in 1969 en route to her annual spiritual retreat.) Maria was born in Italy and became a Salesian Sister of Don Bosco in her twenties. After working as a nurse during World War I, she became a missionary in Ecuador. I am challenged by this quote from her: "Every day I am happier with my missionary religious vocation!" Well, most days I enjoy the ministry the Lord has given me but sometimes I lose sight of this gift and get down on myself for not always doing it timely or perfectly. Maria reminds me to be grateful for the path on which the Lord has placed me... and to remember my idea of success needs to align with His.

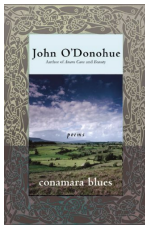


To learn more about other women saints and blessed, [see the Wednesday's Woman entries in my blog.](#)

Friends in Faith

I didn't reach out until late to the friend I wanted to include here, and I haven't heard back from her. Yes, that's one of the things I'm beating myself up about this month. In September, I promise to introduce you to someone who inspires me!

On the Nightstand: *Conamara Blues*



A friend and I went to lunch recently with a priest friend, who brought along two books from, as he put it with a twinkle in his eyes, "My *very small* lending library." He lent my friend a Thomas Merton work as they're both huge fans. Me, I got [John O'Donohue's *Conamara Blues*](#). I'm not sure Father Jack knows my great-grandfather Rigney hailed from County Galway, where Conamara is located, but I look forward to reading what the back cover calls a "deeply moving series of poems that exemplifies O'Donohue at his finest."

What's on your nightstand?

What's Going On?

A lot, that's what's going on! I'm headed this coming weekend to western Pennsylvania with a friend to take in Frank Lloyd Wright's [Fallingwater](#). The following weekend, my sister and I are going to the [San Damiano Spiritual Life Center](#) in western Virginia for do-it-yourself mini-retreats. The next weekend, I'll be among those in Okemos, Michigan, for the marriage of a couple of very special people, Philip and Molly.

My friends Duffy, Paula, Monica, and I continue to work on the [Future with Hope Women's Conference](#) for Catholic women forty and over, set for October 21-22, 2016 (yep, this fall) in Fairfax, VA. Won't you consider joining us?

And, I'm doing a Skype session and some other activities as the Women in the New Evangelization (WINE) [Online Summer Book Club](#) wraps up its reading of *Blessed Are You: Finding Inspiration from Our Sisters in Faith*. It's been a true privilege to get to know so many new virtual friends through WINE!



May God bless you exceedingly! --Melanie

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