

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

All You Holy People...



Happy All Saints Day! November 1 is the day Catholics and others honor our connection with the holy men and women who have gone before us (canonized and otherwise) and who now sing the Lord's praises in Heaven. This is one of my favorite days of the year as I contemplate how people like St. Paul, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Therese of Lisieux, and a number of friends who have died in the past year in particular have informed my faith life. All you holy men and women, pray with and for us!

"When our hearts are at peace, then our actions also will be peaceful." --Maria Theresia Bonzel



Balance is difficult for me. I feel like I spend too much time in prayer and too little in serving God's people, or the other way around, and can't find the middle. This sweet-looking German woman, beatified three years ago, figured it out. She founded the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, because of her devotion both to the Eucharist and to caring for the sick in private homes and hospitals. Her work was honored by the Red Cross and others. It wasn't always easy for Maria Theresia... the political climate in her home country at one point prevented women from joining the congregation, so she struck out in 1875 and accompanied some of her sisters to establish a community in Lafayette, Indiana. The Sisters still balance service and prayer in Germany, the United States, Brazil, and the Philippines. Her

example reminds me that the struggle for balance can be won with the Lord's help, putting our hearts and actions at peace.

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

Friends in Faith: Lisa Mladinich

My Bible study group recently spent time with Proverbs 31:10-31, the woman of worth passage. As I heard my friend [Lisa Mladinich](#) speak at the



[Future with Hope](#) women's conference in October, I was struck by how she lives those verses. Lisa, author of [True Radiance: Finding Grace in the Second Half of Life](#), positively glowed as she spoke of how God blesses middle-aged women in ways we might secretly consider curses, such as the way our bodies change.

Perhaps even more importantly, I saw the same glow on Lisa's face in conversation as she listened one-on-one to women at the conference sharing their stories with her. Her quiet but powerful presence brought to mind Proverbs 31:30-31, verses to inspire us all: "Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Acclaim her for

the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates."

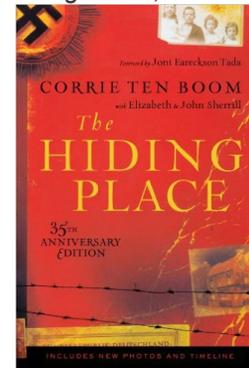
[Which of your friends inspires you?](#)

SPECIAL OFFER: The first two people who [email me](#) with "True Radiance" in the subject line will receive free, signed copies of Lisa's book. I'll announce the winners next month!

On the Nightstand: *The Hiding Place*

I'm a bit embarrassed to admit that I've never read Corrie Ten Boom's *The Hiding Place*, the story of how this Dutchwoman, not much younger than me at the time, and her family hid Jewish friends during World War II and of Corrie's own time in prison for having provided the assistance. Well, that will change this month. I'm drawn to her story at this particular juncture because our world again is in such disharmony and evil seems to be afoot... not limited to any one political party or country. I'm hoping the book serves as a reminder to me that the Lord is with us in all circumstances, regardless of what is happening in the world, and we need only to listen, believe... and be obedient to His will.

[What's on your nightstand?](#)



What's Going On?

This morning I was blessed to be on Allison Gingras's ["A Seeking Heart"](#) podcast talking about women saints, and how we can emulate their example on our own paths to holiness. Talking with Allison is always a gift!

Tonight I'm heading to Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac, Maryland, to talk with those considering a conversion to Catholicism about my faith journey and, you guessed it, saints. I'm betting we all have some fun... and learn from each other.

I am going to attempt to do [National Novel Writing Month](#) starting today for the first time in several years. Still need to set up my particulars for this year at the site, but if you're participating, I'd love to share the joy and pain with you! My user name is MelanieRigney.

May God bless you exceedingly! --Melanie

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