



JOURNEYS

URSULINE SISTERS

of the Roman Union † United States Provinces

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Dear Friends,

It's July and we're in a summer state of mind. If you live in a northern climate like I do, this is the month that makes memories of the winter-that-wouldn't-quit seem like ancient history. These are days to spend outside—at street fairs & concerts, bike rides, long hours at the beach or park, and barbecues with family and friends.

In this issue of *Journeys* we'll consider how God draws us outside, too. Living life to the full is impossible without stepping outside ourselves, our comfort zones, our personal desires. This is the only way to discover our true vocation—to join God “outside” and to see the world and its needs through God's eyes. My favorite definition of vocation comes from Frederick Buechner: *Vocation is the place where my deep gladness meets the worlds' great need.* So while you're outside this month, take a look around. What gift did God give you to share with our needy world?



United in prayer,

Sr. Jan Hopman, OSU

For Reflection

- Name 1 or 2 gifts you know you have. Would the person who knows you best name the same ones? Ask her or him.
- What needs are you aware of at school? At work? In your neighborhood?
- How is service to others becoming a part of your life?

Angela Merici

Scripture Helps

Listen to Jesus teach his disciples about sharing with the world the light within them. [Matthew 5:14-16](#) Then take some time to reflect on the light within *you*. Ask Jesus to help you identify it. When you feel ready, in your imagination place your light on a lampstand. Give God thanks for entrusting you with this great gift.

Following Jesus requires a counter-cultural lifestyle. Disciples are often called outside of their comfort zones. Sit quietly and hear Jesus speak these words to you, “The harvest is rich but the laborers are few . . . I am sending you out like lambs among wolves . . . carry no purse . . . no sandals.” [Luke 10:1-10](#) Share with Jesus how you feel and ask for the help that you need.



Let God be your role model.

Other Resources

Check out the *Days of Deepening Friendship* blog by my friend Vinita Hampton Wright. She has a new feature entitled [Praying through the Summer](#), where she explores different ways to pray, especially outdoors.

Watch a short [video](#) about Kerry Weber, a young, single Catholic woman in NYC who stepped outside her comfort zone to practice the Works of Mercy during the 40 days of Lent. Her [book](#) *Mercy in the City* describes how her commitment not only changed the lives of others, but also her own.

For more information, contact Sr. Elisa Ryan at elisaosu@gmail.com or Sr. Jean Hopman at sjeanosu@gmail.com. If you no longer wish to receive these e-letters, contact Sr. Elisa and she will remove your address.

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