

## NVAW HOMILY POINTS

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- Philippians
  - Paul stresses the importance of unity
    - “Same mind” = “thinking one thing”
    - “Same love”
    - “United in heart”
    - Cf. Paul’s stress on putting on the mind of Christ
    - Cf. Paul’s description of true Christian discipleship: “We have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16)
  - Avoid selfish and vain thinking
  - \*\* Discernment of one’s vocation begins by developing these basic habits of heart
- Psalm
  - “I have stilled and quieted my soul”
  - \*\* Importance of prayer in the spiritual life

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- Philippians
  - St. Paul quotes an early Christian hymn dealing with the double emptying (kenosis) of Christ: first by taking on human flesh (the Incarnation) and then by his death on the Cross (the Passion)
  - Because Christ emptied himself, the Father exalted him
  - \*\* The Paschal Mystery is at the heart of every vocation
- Luke
  - Christ invites
  - Many have an excuse not to come
  - \*\* With regard to God’s specific call to each of us: what are my excuses to avoid his invitation to follow?
- Feast of St. Charles Borromeo
  - “If a tiny spark of God’s love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out... Stay quiet with God.”
  - \*\* The importance of caring for and nurturing the call of God—protecting it and staying with God in the silence

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- Philippians
  - It is God who gives the desire
  - The importance of God-given desire in the spiritual life

- \*\* What desires has God placed in your heart? How do you deal with these God-given desires?
- Psalm
  - The obstacle of fear and the fact that we needn't give into it since the Lord conquers all fear—he is “my light and my salvation” and “my life's refuge”
  - The importance of seeking one thing—the desire to dwell with God
  - \*\* We trust that the Lord's presence conquers all our fears
- Luke
  - The importance of carrying the cross in our following of Jesus
  - \*\* Following God's call in one's life will not always be easy—it will involve the Cross

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

- Philippians
  - St. Paul comes to the realization that all the gains of this world he now considers as loss in light of Jesus Christ
  - \*\* Jesus Christ is the pearl of great price
- Psalm
  - Response: “Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord”
  - Tied to the searching theme of the gospel today
- Luke
  - Two parables:
    - Searching for the one lost sheep
    - Searching for the one lost coin
  - God goes after the lost
  - Great joy in the finding
  - \*\* God is always searching for us long before we search for Him

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- Philippians
  - St. Paul reminds the Philippians that “our citizenship is in heaven”
  - This is in contrast to others whose “minds are occupied with earthly things”
  - \*\* Being Christian means having one foot in heaven and one on earth; it is a liminal (standing on the threshold) experience
  - \*\* Every vocation is liminal
- Luke
  - Jesus' parable
  - We will have to give an account of our stewardship
  - We are not our own
  - \*\* A challenge to a radical individualism and autonomy: we belong to God

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- Luke
  - Jesus reinforces the First Commandment: “No servant can serve two masters”
  - “You cannot serve God and mammon”
  - Cf. idol worship issues in Old Testament
  - \*\* This gets to the most basic choice, the fundamental option—do we serve God or something else?
    - Cf. Joshua’s address to the people (Joshua 24)—“Choose today whom you will serve, the gods your ancestors served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”