

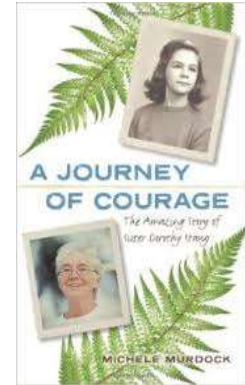
For Your February Reflections

12th She often wore a tee shirt that said, “A morte da floresta é o fim da nossa vida.”
(The death of the forest will be the end of our lives.)

Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN (martyr in Brazil)

3rd "Everything was finished. Our mother land was defeated. Our university had collapsed and classrooms were reduced to ashes. We, one by one, were wounded and fell. The houses we lived in were burned down, the clothes we wore were blown up, and our families were either dead or injured. What are we going to say? . . . We should use the principle of the atomic atom. Go forward in the research of atomic energy contributing to the progress of civilization. A misfortune will be then transformed to a good fortune. The world civilization will change with the utilization of atomic energy. If a new and fortunate world can be made, the souls of so many victims will rest in peace."

Takashi Nagai (a convert to Roman Catholicism,
a survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, and a Radiologist)



4th “My courage fails me, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace; in me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (anti-Nazi dissident)

2nd

Bertrand Russell (British philosopher, mathematician,
activist against nuclear weapons)

5th Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ—for the God-human who lived and died for all the world; men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce.

Pedro Arrupe, SJ (Jesuit, General Superior, Basque, missionary to Nagasaki, committed to social justice)



6th “The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ’s example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain.”

St. Paul Miki, Nagasaki, Japan

8th “All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.”

Martin Buber (Jewish Philosopher)

11th “What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

Nelson Mandela (South African, activist, seeker of justice, president)



4th “People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired but that wasn’t true. I was not tired physically; I was not old. I was 42. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in to injustice.”

Rosa Parks (Mother of Civil Rights)

17th "These injustices have hurt many families. I wish one day we could have a sober regime; probably the best thing would be a referendum on what should be done to people who have committed crimes against humanity. Should they be pardoned or should they be prosecuted. But of course I would go for forgiveness."

(**Son of Anglican Archbishop Janani Luwum of Uganda** after his father was brutally killed by government forces.)

21st ‘Can I believe what I don’t understand? and, Can I believe what cannot be absolutely proved?’ His life’s work was an effort to look at the nature of logic, the role of conscience, the essence of belief, and the assent to faith through reason, inference and intuition.

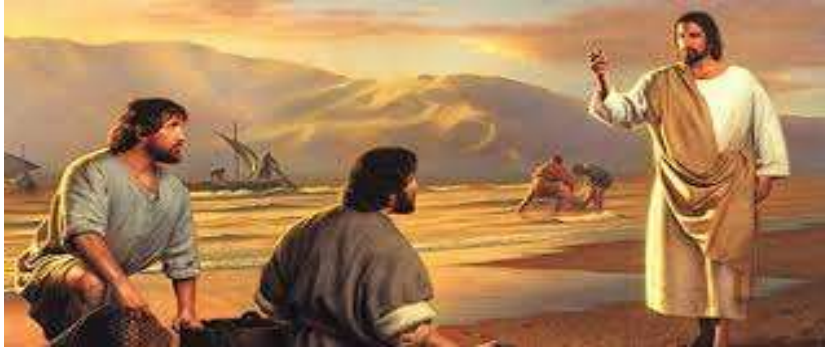
John Henry Newman (British theologian)

22nd Sophia Magdalena Scholl

Graduated from secondary school, where the subject of her essay was "The Hand that Moved the Cradle, Moved the World." Her firm Christian belief in God and in every human being's essential dignity formed her basis for resisting Nazi ideology. Sophia **and her brother Hans** have been celebrated as two of the great German heroes who actively opposed the Third Reich during the Second World War.

“If one cares about individuals...then one has to get involved in the structures and systems of society in order to express that love that Jesus talks about in the Gospel.”

How are you being called?



For all who resist structural injustice even when it may be dangerous; that they may continue to have faith, courage, and strength in the face of oppression and that they may have hearts of love even in the midst of evil,

For those of us who desire to help end the oppression of others, but who worry about the consequences for ourselves, our families, and our lives; that we, too, may have the strength to act with conviction,

Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth, who called fishermen to minister with him, and all prophets who have gone before us and those who, today, bravely live their lives to rid our world of injustice, empower us with your Spirit so that we may also become your saints for peace with justice. Amen.