

# GRIST

Diocese of New Ulm Social Concerns Office February, 2008

## II. Hallowed Be Thy Name

We are always making God our accomplice, so that we may legalize our own iniquities. Every successful massacre is consecrated by a *Te Deum*, and the clergy have never been wanting in benedictions for any victorious enormity.

*Henri Frederic Amiel*

Invoked or not, God is present. *Anonymous*

We are both the instruments and beneficiaries of God's mercy. *Anonymous*

Abraham was hospitable, and God was with him.  
Elias loved quiet, and God was with him.  
David was humble, and God was with him.  
Find your soul's desire in following God.  
Do that, and keep your heart.

*St. Anthony the Great*

The soul lives by avoiding what it dies by affecting. *St. Augustine*

The word of God! Give me back my Word, the Judge will say on the last day. When you think what certain people will have to unpack on that occasion, it's no laughing matter.

*Georges Bernanos*

O Thou, far off and here, whole and broken,  
Who in necessity and in bounty wait,  
Whose truth is light and dark, mute though spoken,  
by Thy wide grace show me Thy narrow gate.

*Wendell Berry*

Awaken in me my true image. *Jacob Boehme*

How many crude remarks one commits every day which one would never forgive another... The most difficult thing for one who does not believe in God: that he has no one to give thanks to.

*Elias Canetti*

The elect live "in Christ," but they retain, or rather find, their true identity, their own name.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church/CCC #1025*

God calls each one by name. Everyone's name is sacred. The name is the icon of the person. It demands respect as a sign of the dignity of the one who bears it... The name one receives is a name for eternity. In the kingdom, the mysterious and unique character of each person marked with God's name will shine forth in splendor. *CCC #2158-59*

God's glory and our life depend on the hallowing of his name in us and by us. *CCC #2813*

When we are whom we are called to be, we will set the world ablaze. *St. Catherine of Siena*

The proof that this world is not a success is that we can compare ourselves without indecency to Him who is supposed to have created it, but not to Napoleon or even to a bum, especially if the latter is incomparable of his kind. *E. M. Cioran*

God expects but one thing of you:  
that you let God be God in you.

*Meister Eckhart*

One's chief happiness is to be what one is.

*Erasmus*

So long as one is able to pose, one still has much to learn about suffering. *Ellen Glasgow*

As a man is, so is his God. Therefore was God so often an object of mockery.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

A new angelology of words is needed so that we may once again have faith in them. Without the inherence of the angel in the word – and *angel* means originally "emissary," "message bearer" – how can we utter anything but personal opinions, things made up in our subjective minds? We need to recall the angel aspect of the word, recognizing words as independent carriers of soul between people. We need to recall that we do not just make words up or learn them in school, or ever have them fully under control. Words, like angels, are powers which have invisible power over us. They are personal presences which have whole mythologies:

genders, genealogies (etymologies concerning origins and creations), histories, and vogues: and their own guarding, blaspheming, creating, and annihilating effects. *James Hillman*

Cursing, swearing, reviling, and the like do not signify as speech but as the actions of a tongue accustomed. *Thomas Hobbes*

Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:  
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;  
Selves – goes itself; *myself* it speaks and spells,  
Crying *What I do is me: for that I came.*  
*G. M. Hopkins*

The glory of God is a human being fully alive.  
*St. Irenaeus*

Yes, my voices were of God;  
my voices have not deceived me.  
*St. Joan of Arc – attributed last words*

To stand on one leg and prove God's existence is a very different thing from going down on one's knees and thanking him...Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays...The process of becoming a Christian (that is, being changed into the likeness of God) is, in a human sense, a greater torment and wretchedness and pain than the greatest conceivable human suffering, and moreover a crime in the eyes of one's contemporaries. And thus will it always be; that is, if becoming a Christian in reality means becoming contemporaneous with Christ. And if becoming a Christian does not have this meaning, then all your chatter about becoming a Christian is a vanity, a delusion, and a snare, and likewise a blasphemy and a sin against the Holy Spirit.  
*Soren Kierkegaard*

We must not mock God. Yet the best of us are not so much afraid to offend Him as to offend our neighbors, kinsmen, or rulers.  
*Michel de Montaigne*

Not every end is a goal.  
The end of a melody is not its goal;  
however, if the melody has not reached its end,  
it would also not have reached its goal.  
A parable. *Nietzsche*

Every sickness is a musical problem;  
every cure a musical solution. *Novalis*

I hate pious language because I believe the realities it hides...The only places you can really avoid the Pious Style are in the liturgy and in the Bible – places where the church herself speaks ...I have never found a writer who could make Christ talk.  
*Flannery O'Connor*

You are not in the state of your creation.  
*Pascal*

Speech is the mirror of the soul;  
as a man speaks, so he is. *Publilius Syrus*

You know the name you were given;  
you do not know the name that you have.  
– *quoted by Jose Saramago in All the Names*

Live with men as if God saw you;  
converse with God as if men heard you.  
*Seneca*

Should Christ be born a thousand times anew,  
Despair, O man, unless he's born in you!  
*Angelus Silesius*

If God created us in his own image,  
we have more than reciprocated. *Voltaire*

One's real life is often the one  
that one does not lead. *Oscar Wilde*

[*A poet remembers an immigrant grandmother who gently rebuked him when he expressed skepticism about the efficacy of prayer and whether God listens to our prayers. He had the grandmother's words in mind when he wrote his poem, "The Catholic Bells." The anecdote appeared in an article by Robert Coles in the 9/11/99 issue of America magazine.*] You pray to give your soul the words it wants to express. You pray because you believe. You pray because that's you – to pray is to tell God you believe and you hope. God doesn't listen with ears you know. God is there, everywhere, I tell my grandchildren, and that means he hopes *you're* listening – to the people you love; and he hopes you're remembering him when you're listening, and when you're asking for something to happen in your prayers: you want him to be your witness, but remember, your life is your evidence!  
*William Carlos Williams*