

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



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## Time for a Bit of Sprucing Up

Hello friends! Happy New Year... and Happy Epiphany! With the new year, I'm updating the format of this newsletter to make it a bit more user-friendly. I'd love to hear your feedback and ideas via [email](#)... or visit my [website](#).

## Women Saints and Mercy

As you may have heard, Catholics are observing the [Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy](#) through November 20. For my part, I will be profiling a different woman saint each Wednesday in the coming fourteen weeks who exemplifies one of the [corporal or spiritual works of mercy](#). First up will be Blessed Angela Salawa (1881-1922), a Polish laywoman who it is said used any money she had to provide food for the hospitalized soldiers she cared for.

See the Wednesday's Woman entries in my blog.



## Friends in Faith

I'll typically continue to feature a woman whose faith inspires me in this monthly section. But this month, I want to thank everyone who came out to events in December or entered my Advent giveaway. Congratulations to Jann

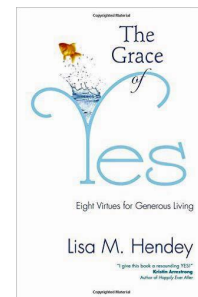
O. and Barb B. for winning \$20 gift certificates to the [Paschal Lamb](#) and [Joyful Spirit](#) respectively, and to Barb S. (@FranciscanMom on [Twitter](#)), who won the six-book giveaway.



## On the Nightstand

I got a slew of great books for Christmas, but this one, I bought for myself. I became a fan of Lisa M. Hendey (founder of [CatholicMom](#)) when I read her *A Book of Saints for Catholic Moms*, and I'm really looking forward to diving into her *The Grace of Yes: Eight Virtues for Generous Living*. For me, saying no in particular is a virtue I need to practice more often!

What's on your nightstand?



## What's Going On?

Whoosh! Another packed-to-the-gills month. Specifically:

- On January 15 at 10 a.m. ET, I'll be talking about *Blessed Are You: Inspiration from Our Sisters in Faith* with the wonderful Allison Gingras on "A Seeking Heart." Be sure to listen--we'll be giving away a couple of copies of the book.
- On January 25, I'll be with my friends at [Landings International](#) recording a webinar titled "Feed His Sheep--What You Need to Know About Returning Catholics."
- I was humbled to be asked to write a reflection for [Women in the New Evangelization's](#) reading of my friend [Pat Gohn's](#) terrific *Blessed, Beautiful, and Bodacious* book. The reflection is due later this month, and I'm very excited about this opportunity... and about joining WINE later this year as an occasional contributor.

May God bless you exceedingly! --Melanie

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