

July 17, 2008  
Thursday of the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19

Psalms 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21

Matthew 11:28-30

*Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.*

*Come to me...*I am struck by the constant invitation of Jesus to move closer to him, to rest in his love. There have been a few people in my life that modeled for me that kind of love. Unfortunately, most of them only shared a small part of my life. Their lives were all too short. Yet, the brief time that their life touched mine taught me that that type of love and care is possible. Life is full of disappointments and unwelcome changes. Nothing is 'for sure' and burdens come in many different packages. Yet, the promise of comfort is there for us--that promise also comes in many different packages: in family and friends, in strangers who pass through our lives, in new challenges that stretch us and help us use God-given gifts we did not know we had, in the courage to move beyond limits, and the new life that each of these challenges bring. I want to remember this promise, especially when I am most unsure, most tired, and most burdened. I want to be like Julian of Norwich, who in the midst of her suffering, was able to trust in the promise of a God who loves us and say:

*All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.*

Where do I find the comfort of Jesus and where do I offer it to those who are  
burdened?