

# SACRED STORY



March 17, 2013

Encouragement & Wisdom

*E & W reflections are additional helps for your Sacred Story prayer journey. Reflect on them at the beginning of the week or outside of your fifteen-minute prayer windows.*

## Sacred Story

We are stepping outside our lessons on *Presence* for these next few weeks as we pray for the Church during this time of transition. As the Church continues on its journey toward the new heavens and the new earth, let us be one in prayer with our new shepherd, Pope Francis, and listen to his first words offered to the people of Rome and the world:

*"And now let us begin this journey, the Bishop and the people, this journey of the Church of Rome which presides in charity over all the Churches, a journey of brotherhood in love, of mutual trust. Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the whole world that there might be a great sense of brotherhood. My hope is that this journey of the Church that we begin today, together with the help of my Cardinal Vicar, may be fruitful for the evangelization of this beautiful city.*

*And now I would like to give the blessing. But first I want to ask you a favour. Before the Bishop blesses the people I ask that you would pray to the Lord to bless me – the prayer of the people for their Bishop.*

*Let us say this prayer – your prayer for me – in silence."*

Pray that the Holy Spirit illuminate all your thoughts, words and deeds so that you can personally encounter Christ in the ministry of Pope Francis and in your own *Sacred Story- as Creation, Presence, Memory, Mercy and Eternity.*



*The LORD is my shepherd;  
There is nothing I lack.  
In green pastures he makes me lie down;  
To still waters he leads me;  
He restores my soul.  
He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
Your rod and your staff comfort me.*

*You set a table before me in front of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.*

(Psalm 34: 4-5)

