



# Daily Reflections

**September 24, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8**

Rejoice, O young man, while you are young  
and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth.  
Follow the ways of your heart,  
the vision of your eyes;  
Yet understand that as regards all this  
God will bring you to judgment.  
Ward off grief from your heart  
and put away trouble from your presence,  
though the dawn of youth is fleeting.

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,  
before the evil days come  
And the years approach of which you will say,  
I have no pleasure in them;  
Before the sun is darkened,

and the light, and the moon, and the stars,  
while the clouds return after the rain;  
When the guardians of the house tremble,  
and the strong men are bent,  
And the grinders are idle because they are few,  
and they who look through the windows grow blind;  
When the doors to the street are shut,  
and the sound of the mill is low;  
When one waits for the chirp of a bird,  
but all the daughters of song are suppressed;  
And one fears heights,  
and perils in the street;  
When the almond tree blooms,  
and the locust grows sluggish  
and the caper berry is without effect,  
Because man goes to his lasting home,  
and mourners go about the streets;  
Before the silver cord is snapped  
and the golden bowl is broken,  
And the pitcher is shattered at the spring,  
and the broken pulley falls into the well,  
And the dust returns to the earth as it once was,  
and the life breath returns to God who gave it.

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth,  
all things are vanity!

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

One of the tragedies taking place in our society is the lack of religious education for our young. For some time now there has been no prayer in our schools and an increasing number of young parents are non-believers. The author of today's text teaches us: "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth." We need to pray for faith for parents and grandparents. We can make such a difference by our public witness to faith. Our society is depending on it!

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## **Food for your Journey**

I have put off getting an Illinois [driver's]license. I liked my California one; it's so sunny and California-like. Bold colors, shiny and modern. You can almost hear the soundtrack playing, "California, here I come" when you look at it. But mostly I liked it because it had a picture of me that looked really great ... from about 15 years ago. They never insisted I get another picture, and so I just renewed and renewed, and every time my old picture came back. It's funny, but the picture of me on my California license seemed to get better as I got older. Of course, I was getting older; that's the point. But it actually did truly and honestly seem to get better — a Dorian Gray driver's license picture — my lips got redder and my hair a richer shade of brown just as my own hair got duller and thinner and my own lips began to fade slightly into the rest of my face. ...

Getting married, moving here, turning 50 — none of those things fazed me all that much. But this license ... turning in my old brunette California girl self and receiving my matronly Midwest membership card ... it turns out I am vain after all!

—NPR panelist and storyteller Julia Sweeney, reflecting on vanity in her blog, October 24, 2009, <http://juliasweeney.blogspot.com>.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Please fill my heart with love and faith so that in everything I do, others will see Your Presence in my life. Amen.