

December 1, 2007  
Saturday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

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

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

Memorial of St. Edmund Campion, S.J.

Daniel 7:15-27

Daniel 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87

Luke 21:34-36

*Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.*

During my childhood, my father belonged to the Edmund Campion Society. We lived in a city that had both a Jesuit High School and a Jesuit College. I knew that it was a study group, but beyond that I never asked him to explain the mission of the society and what it meant to him. I am sorry about that now for it might have given me deeper insight into my father. After reading a brief description of St Edmund's life, it strikes me that he was quite vigilant in his faith for he had to withstand the forces of the times in order to speak out about his faith. It eventually led to his death. Can I be that vigilant? Would I have the strength to remain loyal if I knew I would lose my life as a result of my choice? Since I do not face the same tribulations as Edmund, I have to look at what would be comparable in my time. This is the last day of Ordinary Time. Tomorrow we begin the season of Advent and a new liturgical year. It seems like a good time to look at that question. How do I stand before Jesus? Advent invites us into a deeper relationship with God. It is an invitation to deeper change and transformation. It is an invitation to mindful preparation for the coming of Christ. It is an opportunity to embrace a deeper, more active life of prayer. It is a time to pray...

Lord, you created me. For you I was born.  
What do you want of me?  
~St Theresa of Avila