



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

## The Seven Last Words

Lenten Reflection Series Journal

### The Second Word: *“Amen, I say to you, today, you will be with me in Paradise”*



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**Synopsis:** Imagine standing in darkness close to the Cross of Christ and overhearing the whispered, tortured, words of the Son of God as he assures a repentant criminal of his salvation. Heaven awaits the criminal this very day! Imagine Mary, the Mother of God, hearing the conversation; consider her joy at the Good Thief's leap of faith—a leap that says: “I recognize the Divine King!” There's solidarity now between Mary, conceived without sin, and the man who recognizes his sinfulness, and repents. Imagine Mary's prayerful fiat: “Yes, let it be! Let this man be saved!” This Lent—let us ask Mary to teach us to appreciate all those in our lives—even the most unlikely of suspects—who point us to Jesus, and who remind us to never give up hope in the mercy of our Savior.

**Reflection Questions on reverse.**



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## Reflection Questions:

1. In the dark times of our lives, do we take some time in silence, so that we can hear the whispers of God?

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2. Do we rejoice in leaps, or even small steps, of those who are striving to amend their lives and draw closer to Christ? Do we rejoice in our own efforts—and more importantly, in the realization of God’s powerful and loving grace in our lives?

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3. Are we people of hope who believe in Christ’s transforming love?

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4. Today, have we recognized and appreciated the presence of God—even in unlikely places or unlikely times?

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