

Conversations with God



by Verna Kelley, PBVM



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

To all children who have daily conversations with
God and make God number one in their lives.

- Sister Verna

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by Verna Kelley, PBVM

illustrated by
Lynn Marie Welbig, PBVM

Hi, I'm Mary Lou Johnson. This is my 3rd and final book!

Remember me? Maybe you read, The Little Girl Who Loved Life, a story about Nano Nagle, the lady who started the Presentation Sisters. Also I wrote, Called to Life. That book is a story about Jesus calling everybody for some job in Life. I think each book I write gets better. This one should be the greatest! I hope you enjoy it!



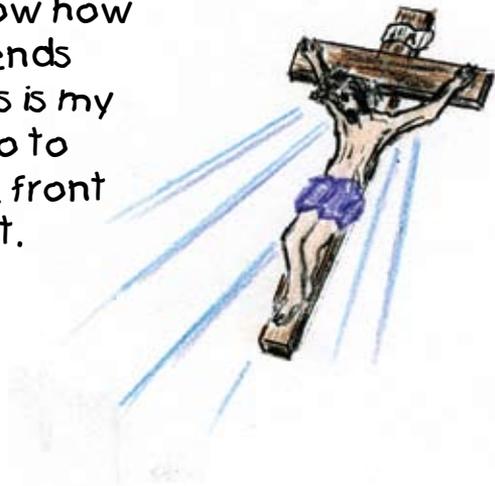
I go to school at Roncalli Elementary in Aberdeen, South Dakota. We have grades three to six in our building. I like my school.

To be perfectly honest, Sister Verna really writes the books but I'm the main character!

In religion class we have a huge assignment. It's not due for three weeks. It has to be five pages long and it has to be typed. I don't know how to type but my mom said she would type it if I wrote it. We can have pictures, as many as we want. I bet you don't have to write so much on a page if you have pictures.

Oh, yes, the topic of our paper is PRAYER. I don't know much about prayer. Boy! I need help on this one!

Prayer is talking to God. I learned that last year. I'm not sure how we talk to someone we can't see, but I am willing to give it a try. I know how to talk to my friends and I know Jesus is my friend, so I will go to church, sit in the front pew and go for it.



Hi Jesus!

How are You today? I'm feeling good. This is almost the last week of school. I can't wait for summer. It will be so much fun. Bye for now, Jesus. I love You. See you later.

Well! That went okay, I guess.

In reading class we heard a story about an angel named Raphael. God sent Raphael to earth to be a companion to a man named Tobias. They talked together all the time. They traveled together and became really good friends. Tobias was a man of God. I think that was cool -



talking to an angel!
I started thinking
about that!

When I have an
important job to do -
like reading at church, I could say:

Dear Jesus,
Please come with me to church and stand
beside me and help me read. I really need
You to be with me because I'm nervous.
Thank you Jesus. I love You! Bye!

I've tried that and it really works! I can feel
His presence beside me as I read.

My Mom has a job running an
office for a Convent. She told
me last night that she asks
Jesus to be with her as she
greet people and answers
the phone. She also asks Jesus to help her
treat all the people with respect and to be
kind to them. Now, that's prayer too!



Remember the story of the Ten Lepers in
the Bible? Jesus cured ten people and only
one came back to say thank you. Jesus said,
"Were not ten people cured? Where are the
other nine?"

I think Jesus likes to be thanked when He
gives us a gift. I know when I give a gift to
someone I like to be thanked.

Here's a Thank You Prayer:

Thank you Jesus for all Your blessings to me.
Thank You for my GREAT Mom & Dad, my nice
teacher, my friends, my nice home... and...
yeah, even my brother. I Love You Jesus.
Amen.

How about when it's a beautiful, sunny,
terrific day. We can praise and thank God.



I got real brave and wrote a poem. You can
read it.

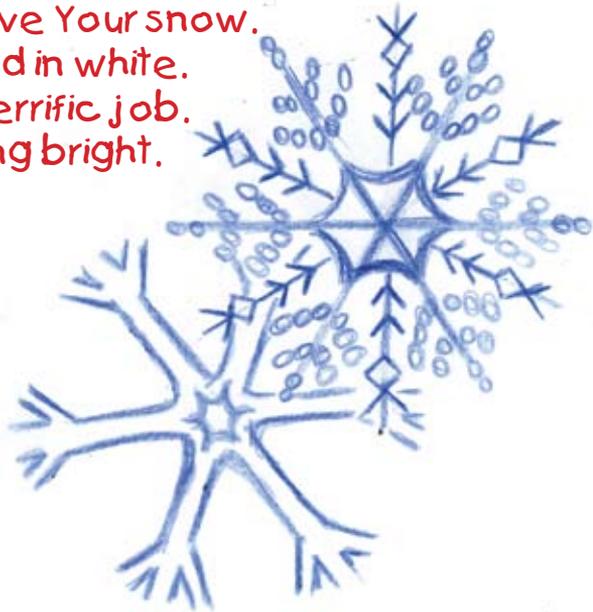
What a beautiful day, dear Lord.
It's perfect in every way.
Not too hot - not too cold - I think
Only You can make such a day.
The sky is a fantastic blue.
The grass is a beautiful green.
The wind is still - not even a breeze.
I thank You, Lord, for such a scene.

Well, I really think I'm not a poem writer but it was hard work so I'm putting it in my paper!

Sometimes I go for a walk and I see purple flowers!

I love purple. I like the orange, yellow and red flowers, too. I tell God thank you for all Your fantastic flowers. How about the first snowfall?

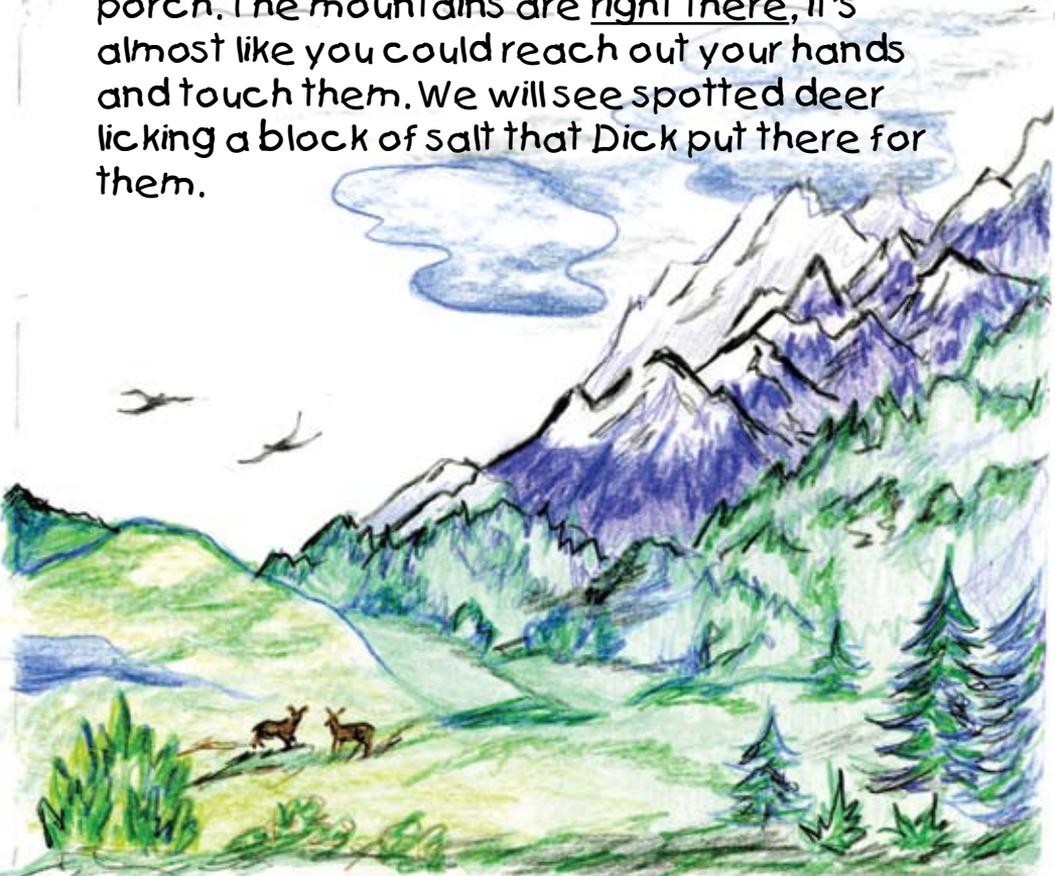
Thank you God, I love Your snow.
The trees all dressed in white.
Jack Frost does a terrific job.
He makes everything bright.



I think my poems are prayers, too. Sometimes I thank God for things and then I praise Him for some of the things I thanked Him for. I wonder if He cares!!

My Mom and Dad know these really super people in Montana. Their names are Phyllis and Dick. They live 4000 feet up the side of the mountain. They invited my family to come spend a weekend with them. They have lots of grandkids so we'll have lots of friends to play with and a big yard to play in.

It will be my first time to see the mountains. There is a big, wide, blue swing on their front porch. The mountains are right there, it's almost like you could reach out your hands and touch them. We will see spotted deer licking a block of salt that Dick put there for them.



Phyllis has all kinds of seeds for the birds, birdhouses, a feeder. There are birds flying all over the green, green lawn.

I made up a prayer of Praise. (I used "ye" instead of "you" because I saw that in the Bible.)

Praise the Lord, All Ye mountains.

Praise the Lord, All Ye trees.

Praise the Lord, All Ye birds.

Praise the Lord, All Ye deer.

Praise the Lord, All Ye lawns.

Last year we had to learn the Act of Contrition. It's a prayer of forgiveness. It's got a lot of hard words. I like to tell Jesus I'm sorry in my own words.

Dear Jesus,

I got so mad at my friend Tina. I wanted to go to the movie, she wanted to go swimming. We both said some bad, unkind things to each other. We each went off in a huff. One of us has to say, we're sorry. Jesus, I know that is not how You want us to treat each other. I'm sorry.

I'll go tell Tina I'm sorry. Thanks for listening to me, Jesus. I love You.
See you later.



My all time favorite prayer is telling Jesus I Love Him.

Jesus, I LOVE YOU!

Mom and Dad tell me they love me and I never get tired of hearing those words. I bet Jesus loves to hear me say, "I love You, Jesus" and I bet He never gets tired of hearing I Love You.

One day I was home watching T.V. Mom had to run to the store. Dad was working. The phone rang. I got up to answer it.

"Johnson's residence, Mary Lou speaking."

"Hello Mary Lou. This is Jesus. I was wondering if I could come over to your house and visit with you?" "Sure, Jesus. You can come over to my house..."

See you in a few minutes. Bye."

I ran to the window to watch for Jesus. I didn't wait for Jesus to ring the door bell. I opened the door and said, "Hi Jesus. Come right in." Jesus came in and sat on the sofa. I climbed up right beside Him. Jesus said, "Mary Lou, do you have any worries that you would like to tell me about? How do you feel? Is everybody in your family well?"

I said, "Jesus, I am worried about my project in school. It's due Friday and I'm not done. It's on prayer and is supposed to be five pages long. I've got three pages done and I'm stuck. I feel OK and my family is well." Jesus said, "Mary Lou, you can write our conversation, what we each said. I love you, Mary Lou. I am happy that you are working on prayer. I have to go now but I'll be back. Just call on Me whenever you want. I always have time for you."

“Wake up Mary Lou,” mother called. “You must be having a good dream!” “Oh Mom! I dreamt Jesus came over for a visit...!”

Sometimes at night my mom turns off the T.V., puts on soft music and everyone has to read, pray and keep quiet (that’s not my favorite thing). I often talk to God. I make up my own prayers. I like that time of day, as long as it’s not everyday!!!



The Apostles (friends of Jesus) asked Him to teach them how to pray. This is the prayer He taught them:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the Kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

There are four kinds of Prayer:

Thanksgiving

Petition - Asking

Praise

Being sorry



Thank you, Jesus for this beautiful world. I
want You to bless the Earth. Praise God for all
Your gifts. I'm sorry I don't take care of the
Earth.

I like to pray in church, especially at Mass
with all the people. I like to sing hymns, too.
Sometimes I like to pray all by myself.

I sit and think. I say no words. I close my eyes and pray from my heart. I don't ask for anything. I don't thank God for anything. I don't Praise Him or say I'm sorry. I'm happy just to be near Jesus in my heart!
My teacher told us that prayer is listening to God! That's hard to do!

A good prayer to say after receiving Jesus is
T-T-A-P:

T - Tell Jesus you love Him.

T - Thank Jesus for coming to you.

A - Ask Jesus' help.

P - Pray for family, teachers, peace.

Well, I guess I do know some things about prayer.

I saw a book in the library on prayer. It said in order to pray you need to have a relationship with Jesus. I think that means being friends with Jesus. If you really love Jesus and are a friend, you would spend some time with Him every day. Oh, I almost forgot I need to pray to Mary, Jesus' mother.

Mary is holy and she is very special.



I know the Hail Mary.

Hail Mary full of Grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Also, a prayer to the Holy Spirit is:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be, World without end. Amen.

I don't know too much about the Holy Spirit.
I do know He really helps people when they
don't know for sure what to do. Now I'll pray
my final prayer.

Hi Jesus. Thanks for helping me with my paper
on prayer. I Love You. See you later.

I'm done. Hope I get an A on my paper.

The End

Join Mary Lou Johnson as she experiences life as an elementary student. In this final book in the series Mary Lou has an important religion class assignment: a paper about prayer. Mary Lou shares what she knows about prayer and how she prays, including some traditional Catholic prayers. Learn along with Mary Lou how to talk to God about what is going on in your life.



Sister Verna Kelley is a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM) from Aberdeen, South Dakota. She grew up in Aberdeen and entered Presentation Convent in 1946. For over 50 years Sister served as an educator at schools across the region. She is now retired, but continues to be active in prayer ministry and in the foster grandparent program, where she uses her background as an educator to reach out to children in the Aberdeen area.



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www.presentationsisters.org