



Winter 2-8-2012

Founders' Day Convocation (2012 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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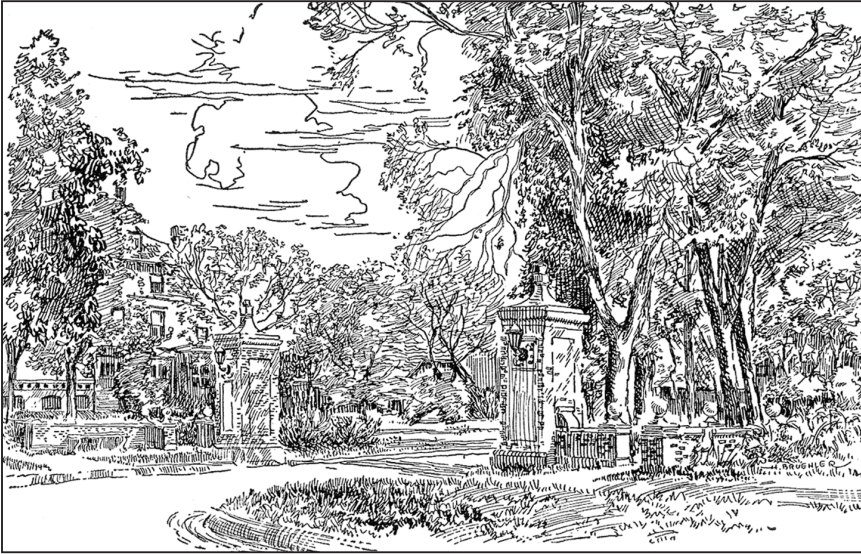
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FOUNDERS GATES INSCRIPTION



From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches of Illinois Wesleyan University

*WE STAND IN A POSITION OF INCALCULABLE RESPONSIBILITY
TO THE GREAT WAVE OF POPULATION OVERSPREADING THE VALLEY
OF THE MISSISSIPPI. DESTINY SEEMS TO POINT OUT THIS VALLEY
AS THE DEPOSITORY OF THE GREAT HEART OF THE NATION.
FROM THIS CENTER, MIGHTY PULSATIONS, FOR GOOD OR EVIL,
MUST IN THE FUTURE FLOW, WHICH SHALL NOT ONLY AFFECT
THE FORTUNE OF THE REPUBLIC, BUT REACH IN THEIR INFLUENCE
OTHER AND DISTANT NATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

FOUNDERS OF ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

Peter Cartwright	W. H. Allin	Thomas P. Rogers
C. W. Lewis	W. C. Hobbs	John W. Ewing
J. C. Finley	John E. McClun	Lewis Bunn
John S. Barger	John Magoun	E. Thomas
James Leaton	Thomas Magee	Isaac Funk
John Van Cleve	William Wallace	James Allin
James F. Jaquess	Charles P. Merriman	D. Trimmer
William J. Rutledge	James Miller	Kersey H. Fell
C. M. Holliday	William H. Holmes	Silas Watters
W. D. R. Trotter	Linus Graves	Reuben Andrus

Illinois Wesleyan University

FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION



Westbrook Auditorium

Presser Hall

February 8, 2012

11:00 AM

PROGRAM

President Richard F. Wilson, *Presiding*
Professor Michael Seeborg, Robert S. Eckley
Distinguished Professor of Economics, *Mace Bearer*

PRELUDE	Doris Hill <i>Organist</i>
Prelude No. 1 Opus 7	Marcel Dupre' (1886-1971)
PROCESSIONAL (<i>please stand</i>)	
Excerpt from Prelude and Fugue No. 11 in D major	Dietrich Buxtehude (c1637-1707)
A FOUNDERS' INVOCATION (<i>remain standing</i>)	Elyse Nelson Winger <i>University Chaplain</i>
FOUNDERS' DAY REMARKS	Richard F. Wilson <i>President</i>
SPECIAL MUSIC	
Down To The River To Pray (<i>traditional African-American spiritual</i>) Rachel Carreras '12, Hannah McCoy '13, Marcia Hishman, <i>Pianist</i>	
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	Jonathan D. Green <i>Provost and Dean of the Faculty</i>
REMARKS	
"Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues"	Sister Helen Prejean
ALMA WESLEYANA	Ms. Hill
(<i>please stand and join in singing led by Shelby Jones '13</i>)	NATIONAL HYMN George William Warren (1828-1902)
From hearts aflame, our love we pledge to thee, Where'er we wander, over land or sea; Through time unending, loyal we will be — True to our Alma Mater, Wesleyan. When college days are fully past and gone, While life endures, from twilight gleam til dawn, Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on — Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.	— Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)
RECESSIONAL (<i>remain standing</i>)	Ms. Hill
Fanfare	Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881)

Sister Helen Prejean

Author of the Pulitzer Prize-Nominated Book
"Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the
Death Penalty in the United States"

Member and Former Chair of the National Coalition
to Abolish the Death Penalty



A catalyst for national dialogue on the death penalty, Sister Helen Prejean is an internationally known activist and educator on the subject, giving talks about her ministry around the world. Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize twice in 1998 and 1999, she has helped to shape the Catholic Church's newly vigorous opposition to state executions.

In 1957, Sister Prejean joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille, now known as the Congregation of St. Joseph. She received a bachelor's degree in English and education from St. Mary's Dominican in Louisiana in 1962 and a master's degree in religious education from St. Paul's University in Ottawa, Canada in 1973.

Sister Prejean's prison ministry began in 1981. After becoming a spiritual advisor for Patrick Sonnier, convicted for murder and sentenced to the electric chair of Louisiana's Angola State Prison, Sister Prejean's eyes were opened to the Louisiana execution process. The experience inspired her best-selling book, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*. Remaining number one on *The New York Times* Best Seller list for 31 weeks, the book received a nomination for a 1993 Pulitzer Prize and made the 1994 American Library Associates Notable Book List. The book's success led to the production of the 1995 film *Dead Man Walking* starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn. The book is also the basis for librettist Terrance McNally and composer Jake Heggie's opera, premiered by the San Francisco Opera in October of 2000.

The subject of numerous media stories around the world, Sister Prejean has been featured in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Vogue*, and *The Chicago Tribune*, among others. She has made guest appearances on television shows such as *60 Minutes*, *ABC World News Tonight* and the BBC's *Everyman*.

Since beginning her ministry, Sister Prejean has witnessed six executions in the state of Louisiana and continues to educate the public about the death penalty. The founder of "Survive," a victim's advocacy group in New Orleans, she continues to counsel inmates on death row, as well as families of murder victims. An ardent advocate for an end to the death penalty, she is the Honorary Chairperson of The Moratorium Campaign, a group gathering signatures for a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty.

In her time as a spiritual advisor, she believes that some of those executed were not guilty. This realization serves as the basis for her second book, *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*, which was released in December of 2004. Sister Prejean is currently working on a third book, *River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey*.