Winter 2-8-2012

Founders' Day Convocation (2012 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches of Illinois Wesleyan University

**Founders Gates Inscription**

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

Prelude No. 1 Opus 7
Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

Processional (please stand)

Excerpt from Prelude and Fugue No. 11 in D major
Dietrich Buxtehude
(c1637-1707)

A Founders’ Invocation (remain standing)

Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

A Founders' Day Remarks

Richard F. Wilson
President

Special Music

Down To The River To Pray
(traditional African-American spiritual)
Rachel Carreras ’12, Hannah McCoy ’13, Marcia Hishman, Pianist

Introduction of Speaker

Jonathan D. Green
Provost and Dean of the Faculty

Remarks

“Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues”
Sister Helen Prejean

Alma Wesleyana

Ms. Hill

(please stand and join in singing led by Shelby Jones ’13)
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 (remain standing)

Fanfare

Ms. Hill

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 Medaile, 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.