

**NEVER THE SAME AGAIN**  
**DAY 3**  
**COMPANION SHEET**

**The grace to ask for today is:**

*Deep sorrow for my sins and a heartfelt experience of God's merciful love for me.*

**Scripture Passage:**

**Luke 15.17-20 (The Prodigal Son)**

At last he came to his senses and said, "All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat and here I am about to starve! I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. So he got up and started back to his father."

**During the day if you wish (but only if you find it helpful) you can do the following:**

**Invite Saint Antoine Daniel, SJ (1601-1648) to spend the day with you.**

After having been delayed for a number of years, Fr. Daniel finally got his wish and arrived in Huronia in 1634. In 1636 he was chosen to open a seminary for six Huron boys near Québec. He returned to Huronia in 1638 to preach to the Hurons and care for their sick. Fr. Daniel said, "That when he was among the Hurons, the more he saw himself abandoned and removed from human comforts, the more God took possession of his heart." In 1648 after finishing his 8-day retreat at the home base we call today *Ste. Marie Among the Hurons*, he returned to be among his people. Three days later his village was attacked by the Iroquois. He had just finished saying Mass in the church and was caring for the sick and dying when the

attackers came. He blocked the way of the attackers, gaining time for the Hurons to escape through the back of the church. He told his Huron parishioners, "We shall see one another in heaven." He refused to escape with them saying,

"I must await death here as long as there is here any soul that can be sent to Heaven." As he cared for the elderly too feeble to escape, he was wounded with a gunshot and pierced with arrows. He died trying to save his people on July 4, 1648.

**Read and reflect on what Pope Francis says:**

"Maybe someone among us here is thinking, 'My sin is so great, I am as far from God as the younger son in the parable; my unbelief is like that of Thomas. I don't have the courage to go back, to believe that God can welcome me and that he is waiting for me, of all people.' But God is indeed waiting for you; he asks of you only the courage to go to him. How many times in my pastoral ministry have I heard it said, 'Father, I have many sins.' And I have always pleaded, 'Don't be afraid, go to him, he is waiting for you, he will take care of everything.' We hear many offers from the world around us; but let us take up God's offer instead: his is a caress of love. For God, we are not numbers, we are important; indeed, we are the most important thing to him. Even if we are sinners, we are what is closest to his heart." (Church of Mercy)

"Jesus' words encourage us never to despair. I think of the worried moms and dads watching their children move away, taking dangerous paths. I think of the parish priests and catechists who wonder at times if their work is in vain. But I also think of the person in prison, who feels his

life is over. I think of those who have made mistakes and cannot manage to envision the future, of those who hunger for mercy and forgiveness and believe they don't deserve it... In any situation of life, I must not forget that I will never cease to be a child of God, to be a son of the Father who loves me and awaits my return. Even in the worst situation of life, God waits for me, God wants to embrace me, God expects me." (May 11, 2016)

**Sing to yourself or recite**

Google *Celtic Thunder – Amazing Grace – YouTube*

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear, and Grace, my fears relieved. How precious did that Grace appear, the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares we have already come. T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far. And Grace will lead us home.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

**Additional Passages of Scripture:**

Romans 5.6-11; Psalm 32; Lk 7.36-50; Romans 8.31-39