

## Points to Ponder-July 26-August 1

This week's Points to Ponder are by Madeleine Delbrel (1904-1964). A poet and an atheist, at the age of 20 she experienced a radical conversion and in 1933 founded a "Gospel" community of lay women dedicated to poverty, chastity, and work among the poor. She witnessed to the real possibility of a life once rooted radically in the Church and fully engaged in the world.

The reflections are from The Little Monk. The Little Monk is a fictional character with a down to earth manner and heart-warming humor. She says of The Little Monk "represents those members of the Christian village who are not striving to be elevated saints – but simply want to live as holy people. She said that he might have called this little book "a few memos-to-myself."

I hope you enjoy these reflections as much as I have reading this small book.

### Sunday

When certain people question your character, don't respond by doubting theirs. *(When some awfully correct folks told the little monk why he was wrong.)*

### Monday

Prefer doing great things with others and serving all to doing greater things alone and serving just yourself. *(The little monk one day when he yearned for the sublime.)*

### Tuesday

True silence never offends love. *(When the little monk responded in monosyllables to a person who bored him.)*

### Wednesday

Put yourself in the shoes of others; don't force them to wear yours. *(When the little monk dictated rules of spiritual discipline.)*

### Thursday

While authority has its limits, love does not. *(The little monk, meditating on his duties.)*

### Friday

If you don't have a particular burden to carry, you might be meant to help others carry theirs. *(When the little monk was quite content with having few responsibilities.)*

### Saturday

A leader's anger does not advance justice. *(A Bible citation that the little monk wanted to put into practice.)*

