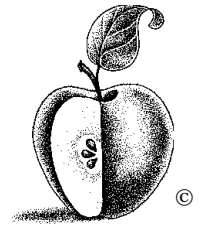


# Apple Seeds®



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Volume 36, #4

Email: appleseeds@franciscan.edu

December 2020

## LEARNING

Abigail Adams

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”



and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.”

## AMAZING GOALS

Earl Nightingale

“It’s amazing what a goal, a purpose, will do for a person. The day he or she gets it, if one was lacking it before, it’s as though one has been re-born, secretly connected to some enormous source of vital energy and good health.”

## ON HAPPINESS

M. Scott Peck

“Look solely for happiness, and I doubt you’ll find it. Forget about happiness, seek wisdom and goodness; probably happiness will find you. Happiness is usually indirect, a side-effect or a by-product of something else.”

## SEEING OURSELVES *A Candle By Day, #124*

“As long as we are young, we can tell ourselves that we are better than others. The terrible thing about becoming old is seeing that we are not even as good as ourselves.”

## PACEM ET TERRIS

Pope St. John XXIII, 4/11/1963

“May He banish from the hearts of men and women whatever might endanger peace.  
May He transform them into witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love.  
May He enlighten the rulers of peoples so that in addition to their solicitude for the proper welfare of their citizens, they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.  
May He enkindle the wills of all so that they may overcome the barriers that divide, cherish the bonds of mutual charity, understand others, and pardon those who have done them wrong.  
May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters, and may the most-longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always among men and women.”

## WHAT’S UNCOMMON

Asleigh Brilliant

“Good ideas are common — what’s uncommon are people who’ll work hard enough to bring them about.”

## WE MUST...

William Arthur Ward

“We must be silent before we can listen.  
We must listen before we can learn.  
We must learn before we can prepare.  
We must prepare before we can serve.  
We must serve before we can lead.”

## AN ADVENT EXAMINATION Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim’s Almanac, p. 196*

“Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

Daily we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas



## PEACE

Native American proverb

“It is no longer good enough to cry peace. We must act peace, live peace, and live in peace.”

**FUTURE OF CIVILIZATION** Dr. Albert Schweitzer

“The future of civilization depends on our overcoming the meaninglessness and hopelessness which characterizes the thought of men and women today.”

**RABBI’S PROVERB** Rabbi Bachman of Bratslav

“When one is young, one learns to speak. When one is old, one learns to remain silent. The great misfortune of man is that he learns to speak before he learns to remain silent.”

**12 BEES OF CHRISTMAS** Maimie McCullough,  
TOP PERFORMANCE, Vol.1, # 6

“#1 **BEE YOURSELF**...As you think of yourself, so in time will you become. Think of yourself as God’s special creation and, in that context, work to be the best you can be — not by comparison with others, but compared to your God-given potential and learn to say no to those who would encourage you to fail while remembering that nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission. Fill your mind with the good, the clean, the pure, the powerful and the positive and you’ll truly discover your purpose in life, which will help you **BEE YOURSELF**.”

**WISDOM DEPARTS** Thomas à Kempis

“When anger enters the mind,  
wisdom departs.”

**GET STARTED** Mark Twain

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.”

**THE CHRISTMAS WOMAN** Wm. Frebuger,  
“Making Christmas a Saving Event,” CATHOLIC UPDATE, 12-85

“Luke’s Gospel account of the Christmas event is full of activity...And yet, in the middle of the frenetic action, here is this woman wrapped in mystical silence...She demonstrates the necessity of a quiet place within ourselves at Christmastime — that place where we are most ourselves in relation to God.

It is a place of silence, not because it is untouched by all the activity of our lives, but because it is capable of wonder. Every prayer begins with silent wonder before it turns to words. Our first response to God is

dumbstruck awe at who he is and what he has done for us.”

**INSTRUMENT OF PEACE** Alan Paton

“The gospel is full of reassurances to us, some of them startling. You are salt of the world! You are light to all the world! These words were exciting to those who heard them. Things might be dark but they were to be the light of the world. They were given a new sense of their value as persons. Of these none was greater than Francis of Assisi. He might well have prayed:



- To those who have lost their way, let me restore it to them.
- To those who are aimless, let me bring purpose.
- To those who do not know who they are, let me teach them that they are the children of God and can be used as His instruments in the never ending work of healing and redemption.”

**ORDINARY TASKS** Henry David Thoreau

“Since most of us spend our lives doing ordinary tasks, the most important thing is to carry them out extraordinarily well.”

**A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING**  
Henry Van Dyke

**The day of joy returns**, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will.

**Help us rightly** to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wisemen.

**Close the doors** of hate and open the doors of love all over the world...

**Let kindness** come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

**Deliver us from evil**, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

**May the Christmas morning** make us happy to be thy children,

**And the Christmas evening** bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

