

# Inquiring Minds: monthly musings from October 2012

“Courage is being scared to death...and saddling up anyway.” John Wayne Issue #19 Nov. 1

Mission Past publications: #1 #2 # 3 # 4 #5 #6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12 #13, #14 #15 #16 #17 #18 Comment

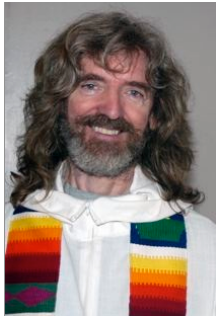
**TED** Ideas worth spreading

## 20 most-watched TED Talks

Want to be informed and inspired, see TED (<http://www.ted.com/>) for the best short talks of talented people. TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) is a global set of conferences owned by the private non-profit Sapling Foundation formed to disseminate “ideas worth spreading.”

### **A SLICE OF SEAN: A GREAT VIDEO ON THE GOSPEL WRITERS**

When our spiritual director Sean got his walking papers (in Latin) from the Vatican, I congratulated him on the distinction of being singled out by the Pope. And that he--like the little cutup in the classroom who is f o r e v e r remembered by his teachers--might also be duly noted. Yet here is a man who knows too



Seán O'Laoire

much to remain silent, and this video link (below) is the best explanation of the origin of the four gospels I ever heard delivered from the pulpit. It's also chance to see Sean in action if you haven't already. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FcNe8br9Qs&list=UUSEABr\\_YYaS6MLSAXE6Tuzw&index=5&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FcNe8br9Qs&list=UUSEABr_YYaS6MLSAXE6Tuzw&index=5&feature=plcp)

For more information about Sean go to <http://spiritsinspace.com/> or <http://www.companionsonthejourney.org/>

**MOVIES:** We saw *Argo*, looking forward to *Lincoln*, *Les Miserable*, and *Life of Pi*. Recommendations?

### **SIGNING AWAY THE RIGHT TO GOVERN A LA NORQUIST**

I couldn't believe it that no-tax advocate head Grover Norquist managed to get 95% of all Republicans in Congress sign a pledge “to never raise taxes for any reason.” Unbelievable and confusing for several reasons:

First, the oath of office instructs Congresspersons to uphold the Constitution. And the Constitution (Article 1, Section 8) instructs Congress to raise taxes when needed and pay its debts.

Second, the pledge is inconsistent with existing law as applied to jurors who are in the decision making process much like Congress. Prospective jurors are questioned more under *Voir Dire* to determine that they are free to listen to arguments and make decisions without bias or prejudice which might hamper them.

Third, it's not a legally binding pledge since Norquist is not related to the government, but heads a tax advocacy group, Americans for Tax Reform. But a pledge is a pledge, and could be intimidating.

Fourth, signing a pledge, even under duress, can shackle our representatives to follow lockstep any particular ideology, liberal or conservative.

Fifth, it demonstrates how dire these Republicans are, a fact which might indict them in the eyes of

more thoughtful and moderate Americans in the future.

I wrote my reps and the president about this. You might consider the same. Who knows, it may matter.

P.S. Bravo to the 5% who didn't cave, and to the one GOP candidate, [Jon](#)

[Huntsman Jr.](#), who said his only allegiances were to the Constitution and his wife. Good



Jon Huntsman Jr.

answer. For more see [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/19/opinion/19tue1.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/19/opinion/19tue1.html?_r=0)

P.P.S. Huntsman was born in our town, Redwood City, in 1960.

### **SOME PERSONAL NEWS**

Patricia and I remodeled our 30-year-old spa with epoxy paint and mosaic tile--a



first for us both. BELOW: Lois as a girl pirate, and Aimée as Minnie Mouse in SF.

