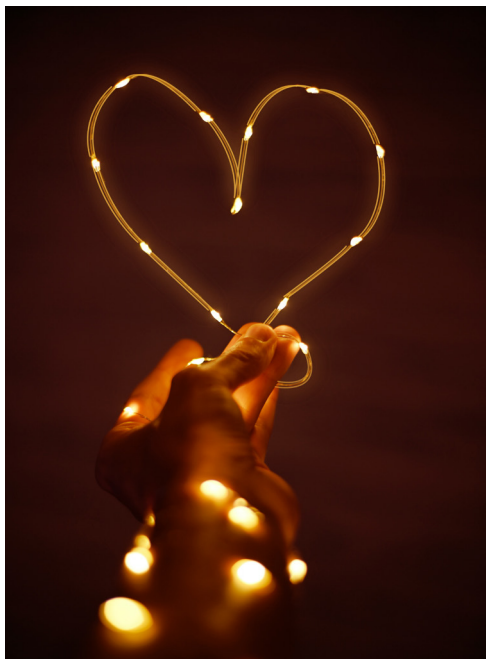


# Marist Minute

I love watching those talent shows and seeing shy, humble, often unconfident people surprise everyone with their amazing voices. Recently I read of one such talent in the US, Jane 'Nightbirde' Marczewski who had sadly passed away after battling cancer. She was 31. I do remember seeing her on stage - she was petite, a little frail, with a soft yet strong presence as she sang one of her own compositions. Hauntingly beautiful.

She wrote "I spend a lot of time squeezing my eyes shut and trying to remember what I believe; counting my breaths in the grief cloud; burying my face into God's T-shirt. I remind Him sometimes, (and not kindly) that I believed Him when He told me the story He wrote for me is good, and that He never stops thinking of me. I must be a fool in love, because even from under all this debris, I still believe Him. And when I'm too angry to ask Him to sit on my bed until I fall asleep, He still stays." Her raw, honest words struck a chord with me. In all her battles she believed, she knew she was loved by God.

Pope Francis encourages us to look at this reality. He says, "Jesus loves me. This is the greatest reality. And I can do something for others. It is a beautiful, positive, cheerful reality!" According to Francis, it is important to move past the "what ifs" of the past and thoughts like: "what if God had listened to me, if life had gone as I wanted, if I had this and that other thing" and move towards the love Jesus offers us today.



## Journal Questions:

*Are you a 'fool in love' with God?*

*Do you struggle with fear or unbelief at times?*

*When do you feel loved?*

