

Fall 2000

## for john

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### Recommended Citation

Humphreys, Deborah S.C. (2000) "for john," *Vincentian Heritage Journal*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.  
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/vhj/vol21/iss2/7>

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**A Tribute to the Memory of  
September 11, 2001**

## for john

in the tomb  
 ...four days. John: 11

*for john, Engine Co 33 Ladder 9*

*jaysus*, if you had  
 been there. if you had  
 been visible amid the thousands  
 of flash points ... our brother  
     when faith comes due  
     for an early return  
 on chrim's marking, the day water  
 first poured out for welcome

another profession  
 of choice and duty  
 and God-knows-whatever sort

of grace assembles the unruly family  
 in this house. faith counts, leads  
 off racing. we have been ready since...

schoolchildren at their desks  
 would stop, recite three hailmarys  
 in doubletime      trust

this young man has led us  
 to the living

water, the power and protection, pulsing  
 through *me-lord* hands that touch  
 the brow of any poor lazarus  
 or half-doubting thomas or son  
 of the messenger God:

*I knew indeed that you always hear me  
 but I speak for the sake of all around me*

*that it was you who sent me.*

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Now take the stone away

DEBORAH L. HUMPHREYS, S.C.  
28 October 2001



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