image / mission

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go quickly back to the beginning
  recall how bread means burning
  and blessing involves blood

lingering at
  how we found our way
  is luxury

hearing the old legends
roses cascading from aprons, appearing in snow
grains of sand, wrapped tight in silk wombs, faces
on blankets, burial sheets, veiled ambivalences

all causes us to wonder
  how can we realize dreams
  that morning has wiped away

Deborah L. Humphreys, S.C.
From her collected works, Conventional Wisdom

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1 Reprinted with the permission of Sr. Humphreys. Conventional Wisdom can be purchased for $13.50 (plus S&H) from the Vincentian Heritage Department Bookstore, 2233 North Kenmore Ave., Chicago, IL, 60614-3594; by phone at 773-325-4943; or online at www.depaul.edu/~vstudies
All that remains now is for you to make a firm resolution to put your hand seriously to the work.

*(Saint Vincent de Paul, letter 1951, *To a Priest of the Mission*, 1655)*