

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Steadfast love can accomplish almost anything and in this lies the distinction between great men and little men.

Daniel 7:15-27

Daniel became disturbed and upset with his vision of the four beasts and the fifth image of the son of man. He entered into deep reflection on his vision and began to understand it as the process through which the Kingdom of the “holy one” has been emerging. He affirmed, “the holy one shall receive the kingdom to last forever”. The kingdom of the Most High will emerge and God will reign forever, and all kingdoms will be subject to God and God’s ways.

Pray: May your kingdom come, and your will be done.

Daniel 3:82-87

**You sons of men, bless the Lord;
Praise and exalt him above all forever.
O Israel, bless the Lord;
Praise and exalt him above all forever.**

Luke 21:34-36

Jesus continued to call his disciples to be alert and awake and to stand strong. He told them about the difficulties ahead. Throughout his ministry, Jesus emphasized that the suffering of persecution for the sake of the Kingdom and for the cause of justice was an integral part of being a disciple. The “Day of the Lord” will come. No one knew the time or the day or the hour. God will break in at the least expected moment, through least expected events, people, and situations. So, it is urgent to stay awake, alert and prepared. Jesus said to them, “Pray constantly for strength...”

Be alert and awake and be prepared to continue to fulfill the mission of Jesus in proclaiming the kingdom of justice and peace for all.

Saint of the Day, December 2 - Saint Bibiana and 7 other saints are remembered this day.

We know very little about St. Bibiana. Tradition tells us that, in the year 363, she suffered persecution under the then governor of Rome. She was the daughter of Christians, Flavian, a Roman knight, and Dafrosa, his wife. Flavian was tortured and sent into exile, where he died of his wounds. Dafrosa was beheaded, and their two daughters, Bibiana and Demetria, were stripped of their possessions and left to suffer poverty. However, they remained in their house, spending their time in fasting and prayer. Demetria, after confessing her Faith, fell dead at the feet of the governor Apronianus. St. Bibiana was placed in the hands of a wicked woman called Rufina, who in vain endeavored to seduce her. She used blows as well as persuasion, but Bibiana remained faithful. Enraged at the constancy of this saintly virgin, Apronianus ordered her to be tied to a pillar and beaten with scourges, laden with lead plummets, until she expired. The saint endured the torments with joy and died under the blows inflicted by the hands of the executioner.

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