

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Fifth Week of Easter

**Serenity is not the absence of trouble,
but the capacity to remain centered.**

Acts 14:19-28

Some Jews from Antioch and Iconium stoned Paul and dragged him out of the town. Paul's disciples formed a circle around him and protected him. Paul and Barnabas continued their missionary journey, instructing people and encouraging them to stand strong in the face of difficulties.

Be strong and be faithful even in the face of difficulties!

Psalms 145

**Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,
And let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
And speak of your might.**

John 14:27-31

Jesus gave his disciples his farewell gift: PEACE. He said that this was not the kind of peace the world would give. It is enduring peace, lasting peace, eternal peace. The word for peace used in this context is "shalom" and shalom means "total Well-being", "the highest good", "that which befits God". It is not the absence or the end of war or conflict. It is the presence of shalom, even in the midst of tension. This is the kind of peace, shalom that Jesus experienced in loving and fulfilling the Father's will.

Pray for:

- **respect for the individual**
- **respect for all persons; unity in families; fellowship in communities; communion of cultures; respect for diversity and tolerance of differences**
- **hunger for brotherhood, justice, righteousness and peace in the world.**
- **recognition of the hunger of people and the willingness to share from the abundance we have received, food for the body as well as food for the spirit.**

Saint of the Day, May 5 - St. Hilary of Arles and 17 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Hilary of Arles was born around the year 401, probably northern Gaul. In his early youth, around 420, Hilary entered the Abbey of Lérins that was presided over by his kinsman Honoratus, who later became bishop of Arles. In 429 Hilary succeeded Honoratus as bishop and continued to follow in his footsteps. Hilary was only 29 when he was chosen to be bishop of Arles.

The new, youthful bishop undertook the role with confidence. He did manual labor to earn money for the poor. He sold sacred vessels to ransom captives. He became a magnificent orator. He traveled everywhere on foot, always wearing simple clothing. That was the bright side. Hilary encountered difficulty in his relationships with other bishops over whom he had some jurisdiction. He unilaterally deposed one bishop. He selected another bishop to replace one who was very ill—but, to complicate matters, did not die! Pope Saint Leo the Great kept Hilary a bishop but stripped him of some of his powers. Hilary died on May 5, 449 in Arles.

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