

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Free from all thoughts of 'I' and 'mine', a man finds absolute peace.
(Bhagavad Gita)**

Jeremiah 26:1-9

Once again, the Lord asked Jeremiah to call his people to repent and return to the observance of God's law. When Jeremiah finished speaking God's word, the priests, prophets and all the people turned against him and said: "you must be put to death".

Psalm 69

**I pray to you, O Lord,
for the time of your favor, O God!
In your great kindness answer me,
with your constant help.**

Mathew 13:54-58

They admired his eloquence but rejected his message. And what they rejected was "GOOD NEWS" - liberty to captives, sight to the blind - a year of Grace.

They failed to look beyond. Hence, they saw only a local carpenter.

Lord, help me to look beyond what I see. Give me a clearer and deeper vision of your presence in all that I encounter on my journey of life.

Prejudice blinds the mind and narrows the heart.

Lord, give me the wisdom to recognize and accept my own prejudices and the courage to overcome them.

To his own people he came. But they did not accept him.

Lord help me to be more sensitive, understanding and accepting of the goodness of all I encounter.

Jesus went about doing good and teaching and proclaiming good news in the neighboring villages.

Lord, empower me with your Holy spirit, that I may proclaim your good news.....

Saint of the day, July 31 - St. Ignatius of Loyola and 359 other saints are remembered this day.

Ignatius was born in the ancestral castle of the Loyolas in the Basque province of Guipúzcoa, Spain, on October 23, 1491. He became a page in the service of a relative and then a knight in the service of another relative, who employed him in military undertakings and on a diplomatic mission. While defending the citadel of Pamplona against the French, Ignatius was hit by a cannonball on May 20, 1521, sustaining a bad fracture of his right leg and damage to his left. During his long recovery, the only books available to him for reading were about the life of Christ and biographies of the saints. Ignatius was captivated by what he read. Inspired by the lives of Christ and the saints, he gave up all his ambitions and surrendered everything “for the greater glory of God”.

Ignatius was a man who was once disinterested in education and was ambitious to be a military officer. He was, on his own admission, in his Autobiography, “a man given to the vanities of the world, whose chief delight consisted in martial exercises, with a great and vain desire to win renown.” He was now a changed man. He spent many months in prayer discerning what God wanted for him. Other men were attracted to his spirituality and became his companions. Ignatius instructed them to “seek the greater glory of God” and the good of all humanity.

In 1534, at the age of 43, he and six others, one of whom was Saint Francis Xavier, vowed to live in poverty and chastity and to go to the Holy Land. They became known as the Society of Jesus. All were ordained into the priesthood in 1537. Ignatius became the Order’s first Superior General, and he sent his fellow Jesuits as missionaries to the East Indies, Morocco, the Congo, Ethiopia, and South America. At the time of his death in 1556, there were 1000 Jesuits in 100 different educational institutions throughout the world. Georgetown University, the first Jesuit school in the United States, opened in 1789 in Washington D.C. Today there are over 21,000 Jesuits on six continents and in 127 countries. Jesuits are involved in education, evangelization, pastoral ministry, retreats, and other works.

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