

MORNING MEDITATION

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Serenity comes from being happy where you are and with what you are doing and not wanting to be somewhere else and doing something else.

Genesis 3:9-15, 20

In the garden, man enjoyed an intimacy with God which was destroyed by disobedience. Ashamed and afraid man and woman hid themselves from God. This excerpt tells us that through disobedience sin entered the world, and as a result, man and woman experienced separation, suffering, and ultimately death. Man and woman failed to be faithful to what God made them to be. Sin is a violation of what God made us to be.

Be faithful to what God made you to be.

Psalms 87

His foundation is on holy mountains,
The LORD loves the gates* of Zion
more than any dwelling in Jacob.
Glorious things are said of you,
O city of God!

John 19:25-34

This is a beautiful and inspiring story of how Jesus, even as he hung on the cross, was thinking of other's pain rather than his own. He stepped into the sorrow of others around him. The same chapter also tells us how those who loved him remained faithful and loyal to the one they loved as he suffered and eventually died on the cross. They stepped into and shared each other's sorrow.

This is what the sorrowful mother did. She stepped into the pain, rejection, loneliness, anguish, and passion of her son and that of his disciples, without going under. She stood strong and steadfast for her son and for his disciples. She became strength for the suffering, lonely, rejected and the sorrowful. She emerged from her pain and sorrow to become for us a fearless, powerful, courageous, and moving figure.

Let us be inspired by the example of the sorrowful mother and learn to be present to each other in times of disappointment, pain, suffering and sorrow.

Saint of the Day, May 25 - St. Bede the Venerable and 23 other saints are remembered this day.

Bede was born in the year 673 near the English town of Jarrow. At an early age, his parents entrusted him to the care of the abbot of the Monastery of St. Paul, Jarrow. The abbot and a group of other monks instructed Bede not only in scripture and theology, but also in sacred music, poetry and the Greek language.

Recognizing his remarkable devotion to prayer and study, Bede was ordained a deacon at the age of 19 and ordained a priest at the age of 30. After becoming a priest, he began working on farming, baking, and other works of the monastery, besides celebration Mass. He gave priority to prayer, fasting and charitable hospitality. He showed excellence in a wide range of subjects.

Bede declined a request to become abbot of his monastery. Instead, he concentrated on writing and produced more than 45 books – primarily about theology and the Bible, but also on science, literature, and history. He also taught hundreds of students at the monastery and its school, which became renowned throughout Britain.

Bede died in Jarrow on May 26, 735 praying his favorite prayer, “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As in the beginning, so now, and forever” shortly after finishing an Anglo-Saxon translation of the Gospel of John. Pope Leo XIII canonized and declared him a Doctor of the Church in 1899.

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