

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Simplify your life by slowing down
and reducing the sense of urgency or busyness.**

Amos 9:11-15

Amos looks forward to the day when the Lord will restore Israel and rebuild the fallen kingdom of David. He promises his people that the Lord will redeem his people and new beginnings will be marked by radical change.

Psalm 85

**I will hear what God proclaims
The Lord – for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
Glory dwelling in our land.**

Mathew 9:14-17

Religion by rule seems to be a standard for many. Some even make an agony of their religion. Many have the idea, like the Jews of the time of Jesus, that a person was not being religious unless he/she was being uncomfortable. If it is not bitter, it is not medicine. If it is not uncomfortable, it is not religion.

Jesus brings in a new vision; you don't have to be uncomfortable. In fact, you need to rejoice. More than once, Jesus compared the Christian life to a wedding feast.

Joy is the primary characteristic of Christian life!

A passion for the old and closed mind will not allow change, growth, transformation. Never be afraid of change! Remain open to new approaches, new methods, new possibilities.....

A thing has “always” been done may be a reason “not to” do it. And a thing has “never been” done may be a reason for trying it.

**However, be discerning and wise in choosing the new. Fearlessness is a good thing.
Recklessness brings disaster.**

Saint of the day, July 2 - St. Bernardino Realino and 20 other saints are remembered this day

Bernardino Realino was born into a noble family in Carpi, Italy on December 1, 1530. He began his studies in philosophy and medicine in Bologna but later changed to the study of law. He graduated with a doctorate in both civil and canon law. He served as a judge in Felizzano and as the chief tax collector in Alessandria. He became noted in these places for his legal brilliance and learning. In 1554 he was summoned to Naples to assume the position of auditor and lieutenant general.

In Naples, moved by a Jesuit priest's sermon, he came to the realization that he had a religious vocation. He joined the Jesuits on October 13, 1564 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1567. For three years he devoted himself to the service of the poor and the youth, and then he was sent to Lecce where he remained for the last forty-two years of his life.

St. Bernardino was a model confessor, a powerful preacher, a diligent teacher of the Faith to the young, a dedicated shepherd of souls, as well as Rector of the Jesuit college in Lecce and Superior of the Community there. His charity to the poor and the sick knew no bounds. So greatly was this saint loved and appreciated by his people that in 1616, as he lay on his death bed the city's magistrates formally requested that he should take the city under his protection. Unable to speak, St. Bernardino bowed his head. He died on July 2, 1616 with the names of Jesus and Mary on his lips. He was canonized on June 22, 1947 by Pope Pius XII.

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