

MORNING MEDITATIONS

Monday, Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**“Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another.**

(Colossians 3:12–14)

Isaiah 1:10-17

Isaiah challenges his people to change their ways. He tells them that sacrifices are worthless without proper inner dispositions. It is not enough to wash hands...must “wash yourselves clean...put away misdeeds...cease doing evil...learn to do good.... learn to be just in your ways...”

Psalm 50

**Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you,
For your burnt offerings are before me always.
I take from your house no bullock,
No goats out of your fold.**

Mathew 10:34 – 11:1

Jesus talks about the cost of discipleship with startling honesty. Being a disciple could mean division, separation even from loved ones because loyalty to Christ has to take precedence over the dearest loyalties of this world. To choose Christ could mean denial of other things and other loyalties!

The disciple must be ready to take up the cross, to be regarded as a criminal and to die – no glory, no fame, no name, no wealth.....no pretenses!

Be prepared to welcome and accept the pain and the loss that come with being faithful to your call.....

The disciple is called to invest his life into the master’s way of living and not hang on to it. Invest all of life into loving and caring and serving and giving.....to total giving. To help, even in small ways, is to gather wealth into the eternal. Life is worth investing, worth the sacrifice. Nothing can be given in exchange for life!

Give life and love all you have ...Invest yourself into loving God and God’s people! Give graciously and generously!

Saint of the day, July 15 - St. Bonaventure and 35 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Bonaventure was born in 1221 at Bagnoregio in Umbria, then part of the Papal States. Almost nothing is known of his childhood. He was baptized John but received the name Bonaventure when he became of a Franciscan. He entered the Franciscan Order in 1243 and studied at the University of Paris. After having successfully defended his order against the reproaches of the anti-mendicant party, he was elected Minister General of the Franciscan Order. On November 24, 1265, he was selected for the post of Archbishop of York; however, he was never consecrated and resigned the appointment in October 1266.

Bonaventure was instrumental in securing the election of Pope Gregory X, who rewarded him with the title of Cardinal Bishop of Albano and insisted on his presence at the great Second Council of Lyon in 1274. There, after his significant contributions led to a union of the Greek and Latin churches, Bonaventure died suddenly on July 15, 1274 and in suspicious circumstances. There is a theory that he was poisoned. He was canonized on April 14, 1482

He steered the Franciscans on a moderate and intellectual course that made them the most prominent order in the Catholic Church until the coming of the Jesuits. His theology was marked by an attempt completely to integrate faith and reason. He thought of Christ as the "one true master" who offers humans knowledge that begins in faith, is developed through rational understanding, and is perfected by mystical union with God.

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