

## **MORNING MEDITATION**

### **Saturday, Third Week of Easter**

**Dear Lord, grant us the gift of forbearance that we may free ourselves and others from expectations of damnation or perfection.**

#### **Acts 9:31-42**

With the conversion Saul, peace came to the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. Peter continued his missionary journeys, proclaimed the good news of Jesus, and healed many. Peter always reminded people that it was the power of the risen Jesus that healed the sick and not his power or holiness.

#### **Psalm 116**

**How shall I make a return to the Lord  
For all the good he has done for me?  
The cup of salvation I will take up,  
And I will call upon the name of the Lord.**

#### **John 6:60-69**

Many of the disciples of Jesus found it hard to accept his teaching about the bread of life.

Jesus made it clear to them that the words he spoke were spirit and life. He also said that it was his Father's gift that anyone would turn to him. Hearing these words and not understanding them, many of the disciples left Jesus.

Jesus asked his chosen twelve whether they too wanted to leave him. Peter said to him, "To whom shall we go.....you have the words of eternal life...."

Jesus called them to personal, intimate relationship. Peter's response was based on this relationship. There were many things that he did not understand. But the relationship had grown, and he could commit himself to stay with his Master and he could affirm and confirm that he found in Jesus the person, the Messiah that he was waiting for.

**This is our call today – the call of the Lord to personal, intimate relationship.**

**Christian life is not a loyalty to certain doctrine or philosophy, but a fidelity in relationship to Jesus. It is a matured, seasoned, tested and loyal relationship where one has come to find "no other place to go" and no other person to turn to..."Lord to whom shall we go.....You have the words of eternal life....."**

**Saint of the Day, April 20 – St. Conrad of Parzham and 9 other saints are remembered this day.**

Conrad was born on December 22, 1818, on the family farm in Bad Griesbach, now a part of the town of Parzham, then in the Kingdom of Bavaria, now part of Germany. Baptized Johann Evangelist, he was the second youngest of 12 children, five of whom died in infancy.

John spent his early years on the family farm. His mother died when he was 14 and his father two years later. After attending a parish mission in 1838, he decided to enter the religious life. The following year, at the age of thirty-one, and after distributing his inheritance, he was admitted, as a lay brother among the Capuchin Franciscan friars. He made his profession in 1852 and was assigned to the friary in Altoetting. Conrad spent most of his life, about 41 years, as porter in Altoetting, Bavaria, letting people into the friary and indirectly encouraging them to let God into their lives.

He had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and each day fervently recited the Rosary. On feast days he frequently made a journey to some remote shrine of the Blessed Mother. During such pilgrimages, always made on foot, he was engaged in prayer, and when he returned in the evening, he was usually still fasting. Conrad spent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. He regularly asked the Blessed Mother to intercede for him and for the many people he included in his prayers. On April 21, 1894, Conrad died in the friary where he had served for 41 years. He was canonized in 1934.

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