

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time

**Consider letting forbearance define who you are,
especially in conflicting situations?**

I Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13

Paul tells the Corinthians that love must dominate their lifestyle and not knowledge. Knowledge is good, but it has a way of “inflating” while love has a way of “up-building”. To know God is to love God and to love God is to know God. There is only one God, Paul says, the God of love. And this God made everything through his Son Jesus. Paul also taught them the principle that however safe the strong and enlightened Christian may feel, he must do nothing to hurt or scandalize or confuse those who are less enlightened and those who are weak in their faith.

Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and do it with love.

Psalm 139

**O Lord, you have probed me and you know me;
You know when I sit and when I stand;
You understand my thoughts from afar.
My journeys and my rest you scrutinize,
With all my ways you are familiar.**

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus taught his disciples to love and be compassionate even when there is no return or reward for loving. He told them, “Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who maltreat you”. He told them that their standard must be more noble than that of the Scribes and the Pharisees and that their spirituality must be deeper than that of the unbeliever.

Be benevolent. Let your love be invincible, unconquerable, unfailing steadfast, befitting your call, befitting your character as “sons of God”.

Be compassionate as your father is compassionate!

Be generous. Give without measure!

Saint of the Day, September 12 - Most Holy Name of Mary and 13 other saints are remembered this day.

The Feast of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary is an optional memorial celebrated on September 12. This feast began in Spain in 1513 and in 1671 was extended to all of Spain and the Kingdom of Naples.

It has been a universal Roman Rite feast since 1684, when Pope Innocent XI included it in the General Roman Calendar to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Vienna in 1683. In 1683, John Sobieski, king of Poland, brought an army to the outskirts of Vienna to stop the advance of Muslim armies loyal to Mohammed IV of Constantinople. After Sobieski entrusted himself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he and his soldiers thoroughly defeated the Muslims. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church in memory of this victory. It was removed from the Church calendar in the liturgical reform following Vatican II but restored by Pope John Paul II in 2002, along with the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.

In Hebrew, the name Mary is "Miryam". In Aramaic the language spoken in her own time, the form of the name was "Mariam". Based on the root "merur", the name signifies "bitterness". This is reflected in the words of Naomi, who, after losing a husband and two sons lamented, "Do not call me Naomi ('Sweet'). Call me Mara ('Bitter'), for the Almighty has made my life very bitter." There are over seventeen interpretations of the name Mary.

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