

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Third Week of Easter

Serenity is the peaceful acceptance of life's incompleteness and imperfections.

Acts 8:1-8

Stephen was stoned to death and he became the first Christian Martyr. Great persecution began, led by Saul, and many men and women were thrown into jail. However, the apostles with great courage and wisdom continued their mission of proclaiming the good news of the resurrection of Jesus, preaching God's Word and healing the sick.

Be strong! Stand your ground! Be men and women of courage and hope and virtue and the good news of the risen Jesus.

Psalm 66

**Shout joyfully to God all you on earth,
Sing praise to the glory of his name;
Proclaim his glorious praise.....
Let all the earth worship and sing praise to you.....**

John 6:35-40

Jesus continued to call them to trust him and take him into their life. He told his listeners that he was the bread of life; that no one who comes to him will ever be hungry or thirsty; that no one who turns to him will ever be rejected by his Father; that he came to do the will of the Father and that it was the will of the Father that everyone who believes in the son would have eternal life.

We are called to turn to the risen Jesus and welcome him into our life and let his word, his way, his truth, his life, his values and his attitudes transform our life.

We are called to trust that Jesus will feed us with his life, sustain us and bring us into life eternal.

We are called to trust that in him, through him and with him, we will never be lost.

Saint of the Day, April 22 - St. Adalbert of Prague and 22 other saints are remembered this day.

Adalbert was born in 956 into an illustrious family of Bohemia. In childhood he was taken by a fatal illness and his parents made a vow to the Holy Virgin to offer him to the priesthood if he would be cured. Their prayers were answered, and the boy recovered his health. They sent their son to Magdeburg to the saintly Archbishop of Magdeburg, who oversaw his education in religion and science.

In 973 he received holy orders from the Bishop of Prague. Later, this Bishop died a bad death, screaming in despair on his deathbed that he would be condemned for his negligence to his duties and ardent pursuit of honors, wealth and pleasures. A witness to this sad end, Adalbert never forgot it, taking it as a lesson for the rest of his life. The next year he was chosen as Bishop of Prague.

He entered Prague barefoot and was joyfully received by the people. The Diocese was in a deplorable situation. Some of its inhabitants were still idolaters, and many Catholics were well entrenched in shameful vices. In vain St. Adalbert tried to correct them and to bring them to religion and piety. When his efforts proved fruitless, he obtained papal permission to leave the Episcopate and enter a monastery in Rome. After five years, Pope John XV sent him back to Prague with the provision that he could again leave the Episcopate if the people did not correspond.

A second time he was received joyfully, and the people promised to correct themselves and leave their heathen practices. These hasty promises were soon forgotten, however, and the Saint determined to abandon them forever and return to his monastery. On his way back to Rome, he met with a great success in Hungary, where he converted many to Catholicism. With this, the Pope ordered him to not come to Rome, but to return to Prague. At this news, the elites of Prague became enraged and killed many relatives of the Saint, stole his belongings, and burned the family castles.

Adalbert went to Boleslaus, his friend, son of the Duke of Poland. In this country he again converted many idolaters. On a missionary trip to Prussia he converted some of the inhabitants of Danzig. It was there that he met his death when a group of pagans attacked him. When he received the first blow, he thanked God for giving him the opportunity to suffer for Him. Then the pagan priest leading the idolaters pierced his body with a two-headed lance, saying: "Be joyous, then, since you want nothing more than to suffer with your Christ." It was April 23, 997. Opposition to the Good News of Jesus did not discourage Adalbert, who is now remembered with great honor in the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Germany.

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