

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, First Week of Lent

**Purpose is the soul's quest for expression,
a journey that transcends the limits of time and circumstance.**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

Moses calls the people to be holy because the Lord is holy. Such holiness requires not only reverence for God but also deep respect for self and others, even other's property. Moses spells out the details of the Covenant with God. Deep reverence for God must reflect: Deep reverence for people; Deep reverence for self; Deep reverence for creation.

Reflect on your sense of reverence for God and for all that is God's!

Psalm 19

**May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart,
Find favor before you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Mathew 25:31-46

The final judgment is not how you kept the rules and how many prayers you said. It is about how you treated those in need and why you treated them the way you did.

The good that is done for others is not because others needed your "good" or because there was a reward for doing good but because you couldn't help but do the good. Being good and doing good, being generous and doing the generous thing, being compassionate and doing the compassionate thing...etc. is your nature, your character, your quality. It just reflects who you are!

There can be no holiness without concern for others, especially the needy, the disadvantaged, the poor...

We cannot love God without loving others in truth. Loving in truth is to love as God loves, to reflect God's love. This means that we must love those who can not love in return and those who can not love the way we have learned to love. To be holy is to love. This love is unconditional, non-judgmental and all-embracing. Jesus says love is beyond piety and good deeds. Our love must cross the boundaries and break barriers.

We minister to the Lord when we minister to each other and to all in need, without even realizing that we are ministering to the Lord.

Saint of the Day, March 10 - St. Dominic Savio and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Dominic Savio was born on April 2, 1842 in the village of Riva in northern Italy. He was given the name Domenico at baptism. The name Domenico means "of the Lord" and the surname Savio means "wise". His parents had ten children in all. His father was a blacksmith and his mother, a seamstress. They were poor, hardworking and pious. His parents took great care to give him a Christian upbringing. By the age of four, Dominic was able to pray by himself and was occasionally found in solitude, praying. At the age of five, he learned to serve Mass, and would try to participate at Mass every day as well as go regularly to Confession. Having been permitted to make his First Communion at an early age, he had much reverence for the Eucharist.

Dominic joined Saint John Bosco as a student at the Oratory in Turin at the age of 12. He impressed Don Bosco with his desire to be a priest and to help him in his work with neglected boys. A peacemaker and an organizer, young Dominic founded the Company of the Immaculate Conception which, besides being devotional, aided St. John Bosco with the boys and with manual work. All the members except Dominic, would, in 1859, join St. John Bosco in the beginnings of his Salesian congregation. By that time, Dominic had been called home to heaven.

As a youth, Dominic spent hours rapt in prayer. His raptures he called "my distractions." Even in play, he said that at times, "It seems heaven is opening just above me. I am afraid I may say or do something that will make the other boys laugh." Dominic would say, "I can't do big things. But I want all I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God."

Dominic's health, always frail, led to lung problems and he was sent home to recuperate. As was the custom of the day, he was bled in the thought that this would help, but it only worsened his condition. He died on March 9, 1857, after receiving the Last Sacraments. Some thought that Dominic was too young to be considered a saint. Saint Pius X declared that just the opposite was true and went ahead with his cause. Dominic was canonized in 1954.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs