

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Twenty fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is an experience of being present in peace and tranquility.

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

This excerpt, difficult as it may be to interpret, invites us to reflect more deeply and remain open to discovering realities beyond what we have already seen or experienced – to remain open to the mystery that keeps unfolding for us. All things as we see them pass away...the real and the lasting and the eternal are beyond what is immediately perceived, goodness and truth and life and love are all eternal, ever present, unchanging realities. We only discover them..... we do not invent them or create them.

Be wise and keep looking beyond what you see...keep searching for the truth, for that which is lasting, enduring, real and eternal.

Psalm 90

**You turn man back to dust,
Saying 'Return O children of men'
For a thousand years in your sight
are as yesterday, now that it is past.....**

Luke 9:7-9

Herod heard about the reputation of Jesus and wondered whether this could be John the Baptist who had risen from the dead. Herod feared John and respected him at the same time. It was as though he was haunted by the goodness of John and his own sinfulness at the same time. He was afraid! Herod becomes curious: who is this man that I hear about?! Herod became curious and wanted to see Jesus because he was “perplexed” and afraid and not because of any particular attraction or inspiration.

Herod made a thoughtless and unwise choice. He acted on impulse, afraid of what people might think or say. He made a foolish oath and broke a great and noble law and had neither wisdom nor courage to admit and correct the error.

Be wise and be discerning in your choices. May all your choices be made in prayerful discernment!

Saint of the Day, September 24 - St. Pacific of San Severino and 60 other saints are remembered this day.

Pacificus of San Severino was born on March 1, 1653 at San Severino. His parents died when he was three years old. He suffered hardships until December 1670 when he entered the Franciscan order, taking the name Pacificus, and began a long apostolate of service in his own region. Pacificus was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1678 and served as professor of philosophy from 1680 to 1683 for the newer members of the order. Following this he worked for four or five years as a missionary in the surrounding area until suffering lameness and deafness in addition to blindness he was unable to continue giving missions. Though he was in constant suffering from 1692 to 1693, he held the post of Guardian in the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in San Severino, where he died on September 24, 1721 and was canonized on May 26, 1839, by Pope Gregory XVI

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