

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Twenty Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is not a place, but a state of being.

1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13

Paul taught the Corinthians to let everything flow from love and to let everything flow into love.....everything a Christian says and does should emerge from love and converge on love! He insisted that love must govern their life, inspire mutual respect, kindness, compassion, tolerance, fellowship, and everything that would maintain a sense of belongingness in community, cohesion in the body of Christ.

Paul insisted that love was not a feeling...but the quality of being Christian...it was the very essence of being Christian.... it was the character of the disciple of Jesus. He described what love is not and called the Corinthian community to be aware of their limitations and encouraged them to develop their character as loving people. (Read the whole chapter to get good insight into this excerpt. These reflections take into consideration verses that are not included in the excerpt referenced above.)

Let love govern your life! Let love define your character!

Psalms 33

**Give thanks to the Lord on the harp,
With ten-stringed lyre chant his praises,
Sing to him a new song;
Pluck the strings skillfully, with shouts of gladness.**

Luke 7:31-35

Jesus rebuked his listeners for being deaf, hard-hearted, and unresponsive. God had reached out to them in so many ways and each time, they refused to respond.

John the Baptist came and lived a life of austerity and the scribes and Pharisees said that he was a mad eccentric - a lunatic. Jesus came, living the life of men, entering into their activities, eating and drinking and celebrating life with them and the scribes and Pharisees said that he was a drunkard and glutton.

Neither the simple and austere life of the wilderness nor the joyful, loving life with people in the open, made an impression on the closed, hardened mind of the scribes and the Pharisees. How about you?

Be attentive. Be docile. Be Open. Look beyond. Be sensitive to the world around you. Look around and rejoice in the presence of good and faithful people. Draw inspiration and strength from the witness of their life.

Saint of the Day, September 16 - St. Cornelius and 14 other saints are remembered this day

We do not have information about the birth and early life of St. Cornelius. He was Pope, the bishop of Rome from March 251 to his martyrdom in June 253. After the martyrdom of St. Fabian, there was no Pope for fourteen months because of the persecution. During this period, the Church was governed by a college of priests. Saint Cyprian, a friend of Cornelius, writes that Cornelius was elected pope "by the judgment of God and of Christ, by the testimony of most of the clergy, by the vote of the people, with the consent of aged priests and of good men."

He was pope during and following a period of persecution of the church and a schism occurred over how repentant church members who had practiced pagan sacrifices to protect themselves could be readmitted to the church. Cornelius agreed with Cyprian of Carthage that those who had lapsed could be restored to communion after varying forms of penance. That position was in contrast to the Novationists, who held that those who failed to maintain their confession of faith under persecution would not be received again into communion with the church. That resulted in a schism in the Church of Rome that spread as each side sought to gather support. Cornelius held a synod that confirmed his election and excommunicated Novatian, but the controversy regarding lapsed members continued for many years.

A document from Cornelius shows the extent of organization in the Church of Rome in the mid-third century: 46 priests, seven deacons, seven subdeacons. It is estimated that the number of Christians totaled about 50,000. The persecutions resumed in 251 under Emperor Trebonianus Gallus. Cornelius was sent into exile and may have died from the rigors of his banishment, but later accounts say that he was beheaded in June 253.

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