

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

Forbearance involves choosing to act gently, kindly and tenderly.

James 5:1-6

James advises his readers to stay focused on things that really matter, those things that will bring them to the eternal and be cautious of the passing things of the material world. Wealth and riches have a way of making people selfish and bringing anxieties, pain and suffering. Be generous to all people and especially those who serve you.

Psalm 49

**This is the way of those whose trust is folly,
The end of those contented with their lot:
Like sheep they are herded into the nether world;
Death is their shepherd and the upright rule over them.**

Mark 9:41-50

Mark offers us several sayings of Jesus for reflection. To help, even in small ways, is to gather wealth into the eternal.....But to hurt or to cause a weaker person to stumble is to lose the wealth.....Take care to remove the stumbling blocks.....**It will cost you much if you chose to enter the Kingdom of God.....You will have to sacrifice everything that get in the way.....Ultimate goal in life is worth the sacrifice.**

Everyone must be salted with fire. According to Jewish covenant law it was the salt that made the sacrifice acceptable to God. (sacrifice had to be salted - treated with salt - before it was offered).

Our life must be treated (salted) with fire, must be purified, cleansed.....by the discipline that Jesus offers.

What if the salt loses its taste...? What if it loses its quality to flavor and to preserve? Disciples of Jesus must remain "flavoring, preserving, healing, purifying" agents. What would a Christian be in the world without the qualities of Christian living?

Have salt in your heart and live at peace with each other. Keep your heart pure....You will be at peace with one another. Be a purifying influence in the world!

Saint of the day, May 23 - St. John Baptist de Rossi and 25 other saints are remembered this day.

John Baptist de Rossi was born into a poor family on February 22, 1698, in Genoa. When his father died, he lived with his cousin, Lorenzo de Rossi, who was the canon at St. Mary's in Cosmedin. He began his studies at the Collegium Romanum under the guidance of the Jesuits. He then studied philosophy and theology at the Dominican College of St. Thomas. During this time, it was discovered that he had epileptic seizures.

John wanted to become a priest, but his epilepsy was an impediment for becoming a priest. However, John was given a dispensation and was ordained a priest on March 8, 1721.

As a priest, he worked in Rome, caring for the homeless who wandered the streets of the city. He tended to the needs of the sick and assisted in helping find a hospice for homeless women. He aided prisoners, helped workers, and literally touched thousands of needy people—the sick, the homeless, prostitutes, transient cattle drivers who came to market in Rome, and other rough sorts. By day he devoted himself to the sick poor in Rome's hospitals. By night he ministered to street people at a refuge. He did this for over forty years.

From around 1748, his health began to deteriorate, and his epileptic seizures became more violent and he was confined to the sick bed. He died on May 23, 1764 and was canonized on December 8, 1881 by Pope Leo XIII

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