

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Twenty Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

**Boredom is the feeling that everything is a waste of time;
serenity, that nothing is.**

Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-16

In this excerpt, we find Job acknowledging his pride and confessing that God's ways and plans are infinitely far beyond his understanding. He came to realize that God's plans cannot be hindered but must be fulfilled. Job has come to a new and more joyful vision of God and God's ways. This excerpt concludes by giving us the details of how Job was blessed in his latter years after he had surrendered himself to God.

God has a plan and a purpose for us. Keep discerning His plan and find joy in fulfilling that plan he has for you.

Psalm 119

**Teach me wisdom and knowledge,
for in your command I trust.
It is good for me that I have been afflicted,
that I may learn your statutes.**

Luke 10:17-24

The seventy two disciples went on their first mission, and they were excited about their accomplishments.... the devils became subject to their power.... who wouldn't be excited!!! They returned and told their master about all the wonderful things they did. The master told them to rejoice, not in their accomplishments, but in their being accepted into the kingdom.

The joy of a disciple is in being a disciple and not in doing the work of the disciple. All that is done is only an expression of discipleship. Being a disciple is reward and joy in itself.

Jesus praised the heavenly father for revealing himself through the simple and the ordinary. It was the simple and the ordinary that recognized Jesus – the learned and the clever had no use for him.

Be humble and simple and remain open to God's self revelation.

Saint of the Day, October 3 - Saint Theodora Guérin and 14 other saints are remembered this day

Anne-Thérèse Guérin was born on October 2, 1798, in the village of Étables-sur-Mer in Brittany, France, near the end of the French Revolution, which led to the Reign of Terror and the establishment of the French First Republic. This period of significant change also caused a crisis within French Catholicism, when schools and churches were closed, and many Catholic priests chose exile over death from the guillotine.

When she was fifteen, tragedy struck the family. Bandits robbed and killed her father as he was traveling home to visit his family. The grief proved to be too much for Isabelle Guérin, who already had lost two children, and she fell into a deep depression. The teenaged Anne-Thérèse accepted the responsibility of caring for her mother and sister, as well as the family's home and garden. Around the age of twenty, she asked for her mother's blessing to join a religious order, but Isabelle was still unable to cope with her loss and refused. Five years later Isabelle recognized the depth of Anne-Thérèse's devotion to God and permitted her to leave home to join a convent. She entered the Sisters of Providence in 1823, taking the name Sister Saint Theodore. An illness during novitiate left her with lifelong fragile health, but that did not keep her from becoming an accomplished teacher.

At the invitation of the bishop of Vincennes, Indiana, Sr. Saint Theodore and five sisters were sent to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, in 1840, to teach and to care for the sick poor. She was to establish a motherhouse and novitiate. Only later did she learn that her French superiors had already decided the sisters in the United States should form a new religious congregation under her leadership.

Mother Theodore and her community persevered despite fires, crop failures, prejudice against Catholic women religious, misunderstandings, and separation from their original religious congregation. She once told her sisters, "Have confidence in the Providence that so far has never failed us. The way is not yet clear. Grope along slowly. Do not press matters; be patient, be trustful." Another time she asked, "With Jesus, what shall we have to fear?"

Mother Theodora died on May 14, 1856 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, U.S.A. and was buried in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, now the Shrine of St. Mother Theodore, in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. She was canonized as Saint Theodora Guérin eight years later by Pope Benedict XVI on October 15, 2006.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs