

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Sixth Week of Easter

**Make a simple meal for your guests and your conversation
and fellowship will stand above everything else.**

Acts 16:11-15

We continue to read about the good news being announced to many people in leading cities and districts. Hospitality continues to be one of the greatest virtues among those who came into the early Christian community.

Be hospitable! May you be a welcoming person and may your home be a welcoming and safe place!

Psalm 149

**Sing to the Lord a new song
Of praise in the assembly of the faithful,
Let Israel be glad in their maker,
Let the children of Zion rejoice in their king.**

John 15:26 – 16:4

This excerpt tells us that Jesus promised his disciples to send them His Holy Spirit. He told them that the Holy Spirit would give witness to the good news and would give them courage to stand up and witness to him in the face of difficulties.....

It is the Holy Spirit within us who moves us to respond to God. Our witness to Christ is inspired and sustained by the Holy Spirit from within. The spirit brings us into this fellowship with Christ and sustains that relationship.

Our witness comes from long, lasting fellowship and intimacy with Christ. The disciples were witnesses because they have been with him. We can witness Christ only when we have been with him. The witness comes from inner, personal conviction. There can be no effective witness without personal conviction. The Spirit empowers, strengthens and sustains our conviction.

The witness flows into outward testimony. A Christian witness is a person who not only knows Christ but wants others to know Christ. He is prepared to speak what is in his heart. The Spirit empowers the person to speak the truth that is in the heart. The Spirit gives courage to stand up and witness to him in the face of difficulties.

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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