

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday of Holy Week

Find a purpose to live for and die for and not just a lifestyle to live.

Isaiah 50:4-9

The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.

Reflect on developing a “well-trained tongue” and “well-disciplined” life. Reflect on speaking words of affirmation, encouragement, kindness and support.

Remember the “weary” – many who are “weary” of hunger and thirst, of poverty and disease; of war and violence; of life and its many such struggles.

Psalms 69

**I will praise the name of God in song,
And I will glorify him with thanksgiving.....
You who seek God, may your hearts be merry!**

Mathew 26:14-25

Judas made plans to betray Jesus for thirty silver pieces.....sold out his master who trusted him and offered him friendship..... what a dreadful bargain!!! This betrayal was not only the betrayal of Jesus – it was also the betrayal of the other eleven disciples, betrayal of friendship, betrayal of community.....

Remember and pray with those who suffer from betrayal from their loved ones!

Jesus, gently, but definitely and directly called Judas to reflect over what he was planning to do. Judas refused to listen.

Listen to the gentle voices that call you to reflect on what you are doing!

Listen and respond to the gentle corrections that come from those around you!

Saint of the Day, April 16 St. Bernadette Soubirous and 16 other saints are remembered this day.

Bernadette Soubirous was born on January 7, 1844 and baptized at the local parish church, St. Pierre's, on January 9, her parents' wedding anniversary. Hard times had fallen on France and the family lived in extreme poverty. Bernadette was a sickly child, contracted cholera as a toddler and suffered severe asthma for the rest of her life. She attended the day school conducted by the Sisters of Charity. She could read and write very little due to her frequent illness. She spoke the language of Occitan, which was spoken by the local population of the Pyrenees region at that time and to a lesser degree today. Bernadette joined the Sisters of Charity at Nevers in 1866.

From February to July 1858 near Lourdes, France, a "Beautiful Lady" appeared eighteen times to Bernadette. The Beautiful Lady asked for prayers for the conversion of sinners and penance. Large crowds came to the grotto to hopefully witness some miracle. On February 25, the Beautiful Lady told Bernadette to drink from the fountain and bathe in it, but there was no obvious fountain or spring in the spot shown to her. She began to dig in the moist soil with her hands, and water began to trickle out. Bernadette drank the water and washed her face in it. Within two days, at the site where Bernadette dug in the mud, there was a pool of water overflowing the rocks.

Miraculous cures have been attributed to this water. On February 28 and March 3, the Lady relayed a message to Bernadette to give to the clergy - "Go and tell the priests that a chapel must be built here." Bernadette told her priest Abbé Peyramale who replied that he needed the identity of the mysterious lady. It was during the visit on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, that the Lady revealed, "I am the Immaculate Conception." A basilica was built at the site of the grotto and was completed in 1876. She died on April 16, 1879 and was canonized on December 8, 1933.

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