

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Sixth Week of Easter

Your time is limited. Don't waste it living without purpose and direction.

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!

Psalms 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 26 - St. Philip Neri and 19 other saints are remembered this day.

Philip was born into a noble family in Florence, Italy, on July 21, 1515. He received his early education from the friars at San Marco, the famous Dominican monastery in Florence.

At the age of 18, Philip was sent to his uncle, Romolo, a wealthy merchant at San Germano to assist him in his business, and with the hope that he might inherit his uncle's fortune. He gained Romolo's confidence and affection, but soon after coming to San Germano Philip had a religious conversion. From then onward, he no longer cared for things of the world, and decided to live in Rome and began to talk to people on the streets about Jesus. For thirteen years Philip ministered on the streets and had a following of many, including the rich and the poor. So great was his ministry that he formed a group of laypersons that would meet for prayer, faith sharing, and service.

Philip had studied philosophy and theology for three years, but he had given up the idea of being a priest. However, at the urging of his confessor, he was ordained in 1551. Some of his followers also became priests, and they lived together in community. This was the beginning of the Oratory, the religious institute he founded. The Oratory was finally approved after suffering through a period of accusations of being an assembly of heretics, where laypersons preached and sang vernacular hymns!

As a priest, Philip was an outstanding confessor, and his advice was sought by many, including royalty and the clergy. He was influential in converting many of the influential people within the Church itself to personal holiness. Philip's advice was sought by many of the prominent figures of his day. He is one of the influential figures of the Counter-Reformation, mainly for converting to personal holiness many of the influential people within the Church itself.

Philip Neri died on May 25, 1595, the Feast of Corpus Christi that year, after having spent the day hearing confessions and receiving visitors. He was canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622

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