

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Second Week of Lent

Silence, solitude, stillness and serenity make us ready for a meeting with God.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

The prophet tells us that only God is worthy of our “absolute trust”. Total trust in human beings could bring us disappointment. Even in difficult times God is with us, every step of the way - God’s presence is our Grace and our strength.

Psalm 1

**Happy the person who delights in the law of the Lord
and meditates on his law day and night.
He is like a tree planted near running water,
that yields its fruit in due season.....**

Luke 16:19-31

This excerpt brings us the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. To the surprise of his listeners, Jesus pictured “torment” in eternal life for the rich man who was caught up in the glory of material wealth and “consolation” in eternal life for the poor man, Lazarus who begged for basic necessities of life.

Riches are not necessarily a sign of God’s blessings and poverty is not necessarily a sign of the absence of God’s blessings.

Journey through life, even a simple journey down the street, requires basic trust. Without this trust, we do not grow as human beings. Built into the very nature of life is the need to trust. We need to trust just to have our basic needs fulfilled. If we are to live and find fulfillment, we must place our lives in something outside of and even beyond ourselves.

In this “essential” trusting, we are reminded that we must be “prudent” and we must discern what and whom we will trust.

We are also reminded that “absolute, abiding, deep” trust belongs to God and God alone. Only God is worthy of such total trust. Only God is worthy of our surrender. The responsorial psalm of today says: “happy are those who trust in the Lord”.

Saint of the Day, March 5 - St. John Joseph of the Cross and 14 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint John Joseph of the Cross was born Carlo Gaetano Calosirto on August 15, 1654 on the island of Ischia off the coast of Naples. He entered the Order of Friars Minor in Naples before he turned sixteen and assumed the religious name of "John Joseph of the Cross". He was the first Italian to follow the reform movement of Saint Peter of Alcantara. In 1674 he was sent to found a monastery for the order at Afilia in Piedmont and assisted in the actual construction itself. He was ordained to the priesthood, much against his will.

In 1702 the Italian houses were no longer dependent on the Spanish houses but were formed into a separate province. He was then appointed as the Vicar Provincial of the Alcantarine Reform in the Italian peninsula. As the superior he ordered that no beggar should be dismissed from the gate without some form of relief - in times of need he devoted to their necessities his own portions and even that of the house he lived at. When he trekked across the mainland as the provincial, he would not make himself known at the inns where he lodged because he disliked distinction and did not believe such should be paid to him. As the superior, he performed the lowliest tasks. He died on March 5, 1739. He was beatified in 1789 and canonized in 1839.

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