

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Peace is not absence of conflict,
it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.**

(Ronald Reagan)

.

Amos 9:11-15

Amos looks forward to the day when the Lord will restore Israel and rebuild the fallen kingdom of David. He promises his people that the Lord will redeem his people and new beginnings will be marked by radical change.

Psalm 85

**I will hear what God proclaims
The Lord – for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
Glory dwelling in our land.**

Mathew 9:14-17

Religion by rule seems to be a standard for many. Some even make an agony of their religion. Many have the idea, like the Jews of the time of Jesus, that a person was not being religious unless he/she was being uncomfortable. If it is not bitter, it is not medicine. If it is not uncomfortable, it is not religion.

Jesus brings in a new vision; you don't have to be uncomfortable. In fact, you need to rejoice. More than once, Jesus compared the Christian life to a wedding feast.

Joy is the primary characteristic of Christian life!

A passion for the old and closed mind will not allow change, growth, transformation. Never be afraid of change! Remain open to new approaches, new methods, new possibilities.....

A thing has “always” been done may be a reason “not to” do it. And a thing has “never been” done may be a reason for trying it.

**However, be discerning and wise in choosing the new. Fearlessness is a good thing.
Recklessness brings disaster.**

Saint of the Day, July 4 - St. Elizabeth of Portugal and 21 other saints are remembered this day.

Elizabeth was born into the royal house of Aragon on January 4, 1271 in Zaragoza, Spain. She was the daughter of Infante Peter (later King Peter III) and his wife Constance of Sicily and the sister of three kings: Alfonso II and James II of Aragon and Frederick III of Sicily. Elizabeth showed an early enthusiasm for her faith. She prayed the full Divine Office daily, fasted and did other penance, as well as attended twice-daily choral Masses. Her marriage to King Denis of Portugal was arranged in 1281 when she was 10 years old, receiving the towns of Óbidos, Abrantes and Porto de Mós as part of her dowry. It was only in 1288 that the wedding was celebrated, when Denis was 26 years old, while Elizabeth was 17.

Elizabeth quietly pursued the regular religious practices of her youth and was devoted to the poor and sick. Her prayer and patience succeeded in converting her husband, who had been leading what she considered a sinful life. She had two children: a daughter and a son.

After the death of her husband Denis in 1325, Elizabeth retired to the monastery of the Poor Clare, which she had founded in 1314 in Coimbra. She joined the Third Order of St. Francis, devoting the rest of her life to the poor and sick in obscurity. During the great famine in 1293, she donated flour from her cellars to the starving in Coimbra. She was also known for being modest in her dress and humble in conversation, for providing lodging for pilgrims, distributing small gifts, paying the dowries of poor girls, and educating the children of poor nobles.

After completing a peacemaking mission, she took to her bed with a fever from which she died on July 4, 1336 in Portugal. She earned the title of Peacemaker on account of her efficacy in solving disputes. She was canonized by Pope Urban VIII on May 25, 1625

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs