

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Wednesday, Fourth Week of Easter**

**Serenity is the calm that comes from knowing you are enough.**

### **Acts 12:24-13:5**

The community of believers grew in number. Paul and Barnabas were accepted into the college of apostles and sent to proclaim the good news of Jesus. Reflect on your call, today, to spread the good news of Jesus.

**Pray that more men and women would dedicate themselves to spreading the word of Jesus.**

### **Psalm 67**

**May God have pity on us and bless us;  
May he let his face shine upon us.  
So may your way, be known upon earth;  
among all nations, your salvation.**

### **John 12:44-50**

Jesus made the claim that in him we encountered God.....to see him is to see God....in him we meet God and God meets us.....

**In Jesus, we come to know who God is and in him we come to know who we are.....**

Jesus proclaimed, "I have come to the world as its light....."

**Turn to Jesus for a clear vision of God, ourselves, this world, life, death and the world to come.....**

Jesus affirmed again, "I did not come to condemn the world but to save it....."

**Never condemn yourself or anyone else.....develop for yourself a positive, redeeming, saving attitude.....**

He also made it clear to his listeners that whatever he spoke was spoken as the Father had instructed him.....the word he spoke came from the Father!

**Jesus was and is the WORD of the Father.....take his word.... let his word become flesh in you today, here and now.**

## **Saint of the Day, April 29 - St. Catherine of Siena and 22 other saints are remembered this day.**

Caterina di Giacomo di Benincasa was born on March 25, 1347 in Siena, Italy. She was the 23rd child of Jacopo and Lapa Benincasa. The house where Catherine grew up in still exists. Her mother, Lapa, was about forty years old when she gave premature birth to twin daughters Catherine and Giovanna. She had already borne 22 children, but half of them had died. Giovanna was handed over to a wet-nurse and died soon after. Catherine was nursed by her mother and developed into a healthy child. She was two years old when Lapa had her 25th child, another daughter named Giovanna. As a child Catherine was so merry that the family gave her the pet name of "Euphrosyne", which is Greek for "joy."

As a teenager Catherine built a cell inside her mind, from which she could never flee. In this inner cell she made her father into a representation of Christ, her mother into the Blessed Virgin Mary, and her brothers into the apostles. Serving them humbly became an opportunity for spiritual growth. Catherine resisted the accepted course of marriage and motherhood on the one hand, or a nun's veil on the other. She chose to live an active and prayerful life outside a convent's walls following the model of the Dominicans.

She eventually entered the Dominican Third Order at 18 and spent the next three years in seclusion, prayer, and austerity. Gradually, a group of followers gathered around her - men and women, priests and religious. An active public apostolate grew out of her contemplative life. Her letters, mostly for spiritual instruction and encouragement of her followers, began to take more and more note of public affairs.

Her public influence reached great heights because of her evident holiness, her membership in the Dominican Third Order, and the deep impression she made on the pope. She worked tirelessly for the crusade against the Turks and for peace between Florence and the pope.

In 1378, the Great Schism began, splitting the allegiance of Christendom between two, then three, popes and putting even saints on opposing sides. Catherine spent the last two years of her life in Rome, in prayer and pleading on behalf of the cause of Pope Urban VI and the unity of the Church. She offered herself as a victim for the Church in its agony. She died surrounded by her "children" on April 29, 1380 and was canonized in 1461.

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