

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Twenty Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is an important and urgent need of the modern world.

Proverbs 30:5-9

This is a beautiful prayer with much wisdom and humility: “Two things I ask of you, deny them not to me before I die: Put falsehood and lying far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches..... provide me only the food I need..... Lest being full I deny you.....and being in want I steal.....”

Psalm 119

Remove from me the way of falsehood,
and favor me with your law.
The law of your mouth is to me more precious
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Luke 9:1-6

Jesus sent out the twelve to proclaim the reign of God, to preach and to heal the sick. He instructed them not to take anything with them, rely on God’s providence, accept the hospitality offered to them, not to force anyone to accept them and keep moving and announcing the good news of the kingdom everywhere.

They were sent to proclaim the good news of the kingdom and not to display their possessions!

They were to spread “good news” everywhere.....

They were not to force themselves on anyone.....

They were to move free, without possessions, without attachment to places or things or people.....

Reflect on your call to proclaim the good news of Jesus

Saint of the Day, September 23 - St. Pio of Pietrelcina and 14 other saints are remembered this day

Francesco Forgione was born on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, a town in the province of Benevento, in the Southern Italian region of Campania. His parents were peasant farmers. He worked on the land up to the age of 10, looking after the small flock of sheep the family owned. At the age of 15, Francesco joined the Capuchins and took the name of Pio. He was ordained a priest in 1910 and was drafted during World War I. After he was discovered to have tuberculosis, he was discharged. In 1917, he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, 75 miles from the city of Bari on the Adriatic.

On September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side. Life became more complicated after that. Medical doctors, Church authorities, and curiosity seekers came to see Padre Pio. In 1924, and again in 1931, the authenticity of the stigmata was questioned; Padre Pio was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to hear confessions. He did not complain of these decisions, which were soon reversed.

Padre Pio rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata, but busloads of people soon began coming to see him. Each morning after a 5 a.m. Mass in a crowded church, he heard confessions until noon. He took a mid-morning break to bless the sick and all who came to see him. Every afternoon he also heard confessions. In time his confessional ministry would take 10 hours a day; penitents had to take a number so that the situation could be handled. Many of them have said that Padre Pio knew details of their lives that they had never mentioned.

Padre Pio saw Jesus in all the sick and suffering. At his urging, a fine hospital was built on nearby Mount Gargano. The idea arose in 1940; a committee began to collect money. Ground was broken in 1946. Building the hospital was a technical wonder because of the difficulty of getting water there and of hauling up the building supplies. This "House for the Alleviation of Suffering" has 350 beds.

One of Padre Pio's sufferings was that unscrupulous people several times circulated prophecies that they claimed originated from him. He never made prophecies about world events and never gave an opinion on matters that he felt belonged to Church authorities to decide. He died on September 23, 1968 and was canonized on June 16, 2002 by Pope John Paul II

Fr. Gus Tharappel,msfs