

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Seventh Week of Easter

**God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.**

(Nehemiah 9:17)

Acts 20:17-27

In this excerpt from Acts, we meet Paul who has come to a sense of total dedication, putting no value on his own personal life, surrendering totally to the mission that he has come to love. As he says, "I put no value on my life if only I can finish my race and complete the service to which I have been assigned by the Lord Jesus, bearing witness to the Gospel of God's Grace".

Be faithful to your calling and bear witness to the Good news of God's Grace!

Psalm 68

**Blessed day by day be the Lord,
who bears our burdens,
God who is our salvation, God is a saving God for us;
The Lord, my lord, controls the passage ways of death.**

John 17:1-11

In this chapter, we read the prayer of Jesus, first for himself that he may glorify the Father, then for his chosen disciples and for all who will believe in him and his word that they may have eternal life. Jesus remained faithful to the mission that the father gave him and fulfilled that mission. He says that his disciples too have remained faithful to God's word. He prayed to the father that he would keep his disciples faithful since they have to continue his mission in the world.

He describes eternal life as knowing the only true God and his son Jesus. To know is to become one with what is known and not a gathering of information or ideas or concepts. To know, in the sense used here, is to become intimate, to become one with, to enter into that which is known. In this sense, eternal life is to enter into the mystery of God's life and love, to be "baptized", to be immersed into God's Life.

This week, make the prayer of Jesus your prayer...pray for being more fully immersed into the eternal, into the mystery of God's life and love...pray for grace and courage to be faithful in completing your mission in life...

Saint of the Day, May 23 - St. John Baptist de Rossi and 25 other saints are remembered this day.

John Baptist de Rossi was born into a poor family on February 22, 1698, in Genoa. When his father died, he lived with his cousin, Lorenzo de Rossi, who was the canon at St. Mary's in Cosmedin. He began his studies at the Collegium Romanum under the guidance of the Jesuits. He then studied philosophy and theology at the Dominican College of St. Thomas. During this time, it was discovered that he had epileptic seizures.

John wanted to become a priest, but his epilepsy was an impediment for becoming a priest. However, John was given a dispensation and was ordained a priest on March 8, 1721.

As a priest, he worked in Rome, caring for the homeless who wandered the streets of the city. He tended to the needs of the sick and assisted in helping find a hospice for homeless women. He aided prisoners, helped workers, and literally touched thousands of needy people—the sick, the homeless, prostitutes, transient cattle drivers who came to market in Rome, and other rough sorts. By day he devoted himself to the sick poor in Rome's hospitals. By night he ministered to street people at a refuge. He did this for over forty years.

From around 1748, his health began to deteriorate, and his epileptic seizures became more violent, and he was confined to the sick bed. He died on May 23, 1764 and was canonized on December 8, 1881 by Pope Leo XIII

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs