

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Twenty first Week in Ordinary Time

**When you let go of anger or resentment or guilt or shame from the past,
you find serenity and peace.**

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17

Paul had made a great impression on the Thessalonians about the second coming of Jesus. Believing in the immanence of his coming, they chose to, anxiously, wait for his coming rather than attend to the ordinary things of life. Ordinary routines of sowing, harvesting, buying and selling seemed unimportant. In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul tried to address some of these fears, worries and concerns. In this second letter, Paul encourages them to set aside their fears, worries and misconceptions and invest their energies into doing good deeds and living good lives and following their noble traditions. He challenged them to “keep” the faith and remember that God is faithful.

Psalms 96

**Say among the nations, the Lord is King
He has made the world firm, not to be moved;
He governs the people with equity.
Let the heavens be glad and earth rejoice....**

Matthew 23:23-26

Jesus challenged the Pharisees on their value system. They had a twisted set of values. They had their priorities mixed up, upside down. They had double standards. They were not honest with themselves, nor were they with the people they served.

Check and restructure your priorities! Be honest with yourself and with others!

They were preoccupied with the details of the law and forgot the weightier matters of the law such as justice and truth. They looked for cleanliness outside and forgot the need for inner purity, purity of heart and honesty of life.

Be faithful to the values that you have accepted!

May your faithfulness to the details of the law be a sign of your faithfulness to the essence and purpose of the law!

Saint of the day, August 25 - St. Louis of France and 22 other saints are remembered this day.

Louis IX, known as Saint Louis, was born on April 25, 1214 in Poissy, Franc. He is the only King of France to be canonized a saint in the Catholic Church. Louis was crowned in Reims at the age of 12, following the death of his father Louis VIII. His mother, Blanche of Castile, ruled the kingdom as regent until he reached maturity.

Louis IX is one of the most notable European monarchs of the Middle Ages. His reign is remembered as a medieval golden age in which the Kingdom of France reached an economic as well as political peak. His fellow European rulers esteemed him highly, not only for his military pre-eminence and the wealth of his kingdom, but for his reputation of fairness and moral integrity.

He was a reformer and developed French royal justice, in which the king was the supreme judge to whom anyone could appeal to seek the amendment of a judgment. He banned trials by ordeal, tried to prevent the private wars that were plaguing the country, and introduced the presumption of innocence in criminal procedure. To enforce the application of this new legal system, Louis IX created provosts and bailiffs.

After his unexpected recovery from a serious illness, and to honor a vow he made while ill, Louis “took the cross” for a Crusade when he was 30. His army seized Damietta in Egypt but not long after, weakened by dysentery and without support, they were surrounded and captured. Louis obtained the release of the army by giving up the city of Damietta in addition to paying a ransom. He stayed in Syria four years.

Louis was always respectful of the papacy, devoted to his people, founding hospitals, visiting the sick, and like his patron Saint Francis, caring even for people with leprosy. He is one of the patrons of the Secular Franciscan Order. Louis united France by the force of his personality and holiness. For many years the nation was at peace.

Every day, Louis had 13 special guests from among the poor to eat with him, and a large number of poor were served meals near his palace. During Advent and Lent, all who presented themselves were given a meal, and Louis often served them in person. He kept lists of needy people, whom he regularly relieved, in every province of his dominion.

Disturbed by new Muslim advances in Syria, he led another crusade in 1267. His crusade was diverted to Tunis for his brother’s sake. The army was decimated by disease within a month, and Louis himself died on foreign soil at the age of 56 on August 25, 1270 and was canonized 27 years later.

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