

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

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

Acts 3:1-10

The disciples continued the healing ministry of Jesus. Peter said, he had “neither silver nor gold” ...and called, the cripple to “walk”, in the name of Jesus” and the cripple walked. Peter acknowledged his powerlessness and relied on the power of Jesus. What Peter offered was his absolute trust in Jesus.

Learn to trust in the power of Jesus to heal and bring us wholeness.

Psalm 105

**Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;
and make known among the nations his deeds.
Sing to him, sing his praise,
Proclaim all his wondrous deeds.**

Luke 24:13-35

We read about two disciples on the road to Emmaus, discussing all the events surrounding the death of Jesus. Jesus came along and began to walk with them. The disciples did not recognize him. They were preoccupied with the events and failed to see anything beyond...

Look beyond what you see and what you hear...the disciples had to learn to look beyond to see their Savior and Lord.

Jesus and the disciples entered into a deep conversation about the events surrounding the death of Jesus. Jesus explained to them about how the Scriptures were fulfilled in his death, stayed with them and shared their bread. He opened their eyes and they saw and they believed. And they said, “Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures?” There was a longing, an urgent longing in their hearts...there was a passion, and they became aware of it and their hearts were set on fire and they returned to tell the others their experience.

Learn to listen to your heart...listen to the gentle whispers of the Spirit...get in touch with the longing in our heart!

Saint of the Day, April 8 - St. Julie Billiart and 26 other saints are remembered this day.

Julie was born on July 12, 1751, at Cuvilly, France, into a family of well-to-do farmers. From her early childhood, she showed an interest in religion and in helping the sick and poor. Though the first years of her life were relatively peaceful and uncomplicated, Julie had to take up manual work as a young teen when her family lost its wealth. However, she spent her spare time teaching catechism to young people and to the farm workers.

By the age of seven, she knew the catechism by heart, and used to gather her companions around her to recite it and explain it to them. Her education was very basic at the village school kept by her uncle and in spiritual matters, she made such progress that the parish priest allowed her to make her First Communion and to be confirmed at the age of nine. She took a vow of chastity five years later.

She was held in very high esteem for her virtue and piety, and was commonly called, "the saint of Cuvilly". Witnessing an attempt at her father's life, Julie was paralyzed and became a complete invalid for 30 years. She spend most her time in prayer and contemplation and the rest of her time was occupied in making linens and laces for the altar and in catechizing the village children whom she gathered around her bed, giving special attention to those who were preparing for their First Communion.

When the French Revolution broke out in 1789, revolutionary forces became aware of her allegiance to fugitive priests. With the help of friends, she was smuggled out of Cuvilly in a haycart. She then spent several years hiding in Compiègne in Northern France, being moved from house to house despite her growing physical pain. She even lost the power of speech for a time. It was at this time that she had a vision in which she saw Calvary surrounded by women in religious habits and heard a voice saying, "Behold these spiritual daughters whom I give you in an institute marked by the cross."

As time passed and Julie continued her mobile life, she made the acquaintance of an aristocratic woman, Françoise Blin de Bourdon, who shared Julie's interest in teaching the faith. In 1803, the two women began the Institute of Notre Dame, which was dedicated to the education of the poor, young Christian girls, and the training of catechists. The following year, the first Sisters of Notre Dame made their vows. That was the same year that Julie recovered from the illness: She was able to walk for the first time in 22 years.

Though Julie had always been attentive to the special needs of the poor and that always remained her priority, she also became aware that other classes in society needed Christian instruction. From the founding of the Sisters of Notre Dame until her death, Julie was on the road, opening a variety of schools in France and Belgium that served the poor and the wealthy, vocational groups, teachers. Ultimately, Julie and Françoise moved the motherhouse to Namur, Belgium. Julie died there in 1816. She was canonized in 1969.

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