

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Twenty Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

God is steadfast Love. The Psalmist tells us, “He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”

(Psalm 94:4)

I Timothy 2:1-8

Paul urged Timothy to offer prayers for all, especially for those in authority. He encouraged prayer for “leading undisturbed and tranquil lives”. He expressed his prayer wish that, in every place, men offer prayer with blameless hands and that they be free from anger and dissension.

Let us pray today that God will bless us with the grace to lead “undisturbed and tranquil lives”.

Let us pray for our leaders that they will work toward building a world of peace and harmony.

Psalm 28

**The Lord is the strength of his people,
the saving refuge of his anointed.
Save your people and bless your inheritance;
feed them and carry them forever.**

Luke 7:1-10

We read the story of the centurion who asked Jesus to save the life of his servant who was at the point of death. The centurion had a quality of faith that we need to grow into. He had humility. He had faith. He was a down-to-earth-believer. He could say with confidence, “I know what it means to command, and I know what it means to obey. So just speak a word and it will happen”.

Be humble. Be faithful. Be obedient. Be trusting!

Jesus was amazed at the faith of the Centurion, and he said, “I have never found so much faith...” He responded to this faith by healing the servant. The word of Jesus healed the servant from a distance. Jesus is the WORD that closes the gap, annihilates distances, heals brokenness.

Learn to speak words of healing and harmony. May your word never create distance or alienation or separation.

Saint of the Day, September 18 - St. Joseph of Cupertino and 11 other saints are remembered this day

Joseph Cupertino was born in the village of Cupertino, in the Kingdom of Naples on June 17, 1603. His father died before his birth. The family home was seized to settle the large debts that his father had left, and his mother was forced to give birth to him in a stable. Joseph began to experience ecstatic visions as a child, which were to continue throughout his life, and made him the object of scorn. His life was not helped by his frequent outbursts of anger. He was soon apprenticed by his uncle to a shoemaker.

Feeling drawn to religious life, in 1620 he applied to the Conventual Franciscan friars, but was rejected due to his lack of education. He then applied to the Capuchin friars in Martino, near Taranto and got accepted in 1620 as a lay brother. He was dismissed as his continued ecstasies made him unfit for the duties required of him.

After Joseph returned to the scorn of his family, he pleaded with the Conventual friars near Cupertino to be allowed to serve in their stables. After several years of working there, he had so impressed the friars with the devotion and simplicity of his life that he was admitted to their Order and was ordained a priest on March 28, 1628.

After this point, the occasions of ecstasy in Joseph's life began to multiply. It was claimed that he began to levitate while participating at the Mass or joining the community for the Divine Office, thereby gaining a widespread reputation of holiness among the people of the region and beyond. He was deemed disruptive by his religious superiors and Church authorities, however, and eventually was confined to a small cell, forbidden from joining in any public gathering of the community.

As the phenomenon of flying or levitation was widely believed to be connected with witchcraft, Joseph was denounced to the Inquisition. At their command, he was transferred from one Franciscan friary in the region to another for observation, where he lived under the supervision of the Capuchin friars. He practiced a severe asceticism throughout his life, usually eating solid food only twice a week, and adding bitter powders to his meals. He passed 35 years of his life following this regimen.

Finally, on July 9, 1657, Joseph was allowed to return to a Conventual community in Osimo, where he died on September 18, 1663. He was canonized in 1767.

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