

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Monday, Twenty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time**

**It takes forbearance and lots of it to come to a place of joy  
and peace with yourself.**

## **I Corinthians 11:17-26, 33**

The Corinthian community had to face certain serious problems...sense of sharing according to each one's need that the early communities cultivated was lost. With Jesus barriers had broken down...now the barriers reappeared. So Paul wrote to the Corinthians chiding them for the factions that had developed in the Christian community....some even went hungry at their meetings because of discrimination. Paul tells them that every time the community gathers, they remember and relive the death of the Lord. And in this gathering in remembrance of Jesus, there is no place for discrimination.

## **Psalm 40**

**Sacrifice and oblation you wished not,  
But ears open to obedience you gave me.  
Holocaust or sin-offerings you sought not;  
Then said I, "Behold I come".**

## **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 "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, and 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 16 - St. Cornelius and 14 other saints are remembered this day**

We do not have information about the birth and early life of St. Cornelius. He was Pope, the bishop of Rome from March 251 to his martyrdom in June 253. After the martyrdom of St. Fabian, there was no Pope for fourteen months because of the persecution. During this period, the Church was governed by a college of priests. Saint Cyprian, a friend of Cornelius, writes that Cornelius was elected pope “by the judgment of God and of Christ, by the testimony of most of the clergy, by the vote of the people, with the consent of aged priests and of good men.”

He was pope during and following a period of persecution of the church and a schism occurred over how repentant church members who had practiced pagan sacrifices to protect themselves could be readmitted to the church. Cornelius agreed with Cyprian of Carthage that those who had lapsed could be restored to communion after varying forms of penance. That position was in contrast to the Novationists, who held that those who failed to maintain their confession of faith under persecution would not be received again into communion with the church. That resulted in a schism in the Church of Rome that spread as each side sought to gather support. Cornelius held a synod that confirmed his election and excommunicated Novatian, but the controversy regarding lapsed members continued for many years.

A document from Cornelius shows the extent of organization in the Church of Rome in the mid-third century: 46 priests, seven deacons, seven subdeacons. It is estimated that the number of Christians totaled about 50,000. The persecutions resumed in 251 under Emperor Trebonianus Gallus. Cornelius was sent into exile and may have died from the rigors of his banishment, but later accounts say that he was beheaded in June 253.

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