

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Seventh Week of Easter

Serenity comes from the ability to say “Yes” to existence.

Acts 25:13-21

The authorities were confused over Paul’s arrest and the accusation brought against him. This arrest and imprisonment brought much good. Paul used this opportunity to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus. Many Roman officials including the king came to know about the resurrection of Jesus.

People of faith, like Paul, discover grace and strength even in disappointing and difficult experiences.

Psalm 103

**Bless the Lord O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord O my soul,
And forget not all his benefits.**

John 21:15-19

“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these...” “More than these...” It just may be that Jesus swept his hand around the boat, the net, the fishes, etc. and asked Peter, “do you love me more than these...” Are you prepared to give them all up, to abandon all hope of a successful career, to give up a steady job, to give up your people...and work with me?...a challenge to Peter for a final decision!

**What does it mean to you, in terms of your own personal life, at this point in time?
What do you feel challenged to do today?**

It may be that Jesus looked at the rest of the group and asked Peter: “do you love me more than these?” Remember Peter saying, “though they all fall away, I will never...” (Mt.26:33). Now, Peter has to remember how he thought he alone could be faithful and how his courage eventually failed, and he denied his master three times.

What does this say to you, personally?

If Peter denied three times, now he affirms three times. How gracious! Three new opportunities for affirmation, for loyalty after threefold denial! Threefold affirmation of Love! This declaration of Love brought Peter great responsibility.

Saint of the Day, May 22 - St. Rita of Cascia and 23 other saints are remembered this day.

Rita was born in 1386 in Roccaparena, Umbria, Italy. She was married at the age of 12 to a violent and ill-tempered husband. He was murdered 18 years later and she forgave his murderers, praying that her twin sons, who had sworn to avenge their father's death may also forgive. She was granted this grace, and her sons, who died young, died reconciled to God.

After the death of her husband and sons, Rita tried to join the Augustinian nuns in Cascia. She was refused at first because she was a widow but eventually allowed to enter the convent where she lived the last 40 years of her life in prayer, mortification and service to the people of Cascia. Rita was bedridden for the last four years of her life, consuming almost nothing except for the Eucharist. She died of tuberculosis at the age of 70 on May 22, 1456 and was canonized in 1900 by Pope Leo XIII.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs