

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Wednesday, Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Forbearance is suffering through an injustice  
with patience and kindness.**

### **Ephesians 6:1-9**

This is a continuation of Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians on what it means to "defer to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21-32). To defer means to submit or yield out of respect/reverence. We are called to yield to one another in service out of reverence for Christ. This excerpt describes what this means, in practice, for children, parents, slaves and masters.

### **Psalm 145**

**Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,  
and let your faithful ones bless you.  
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom,  
and speak of your might.**

### **Luke 13:22-30**

Jesus was asked whether only a few would be saved. Behind this question was the belief that only Jews would be saved and not the Gentiles. Jesus responded by telling them that entrance into the kingdom is not automatic...membership in the Jewish community or any faith community did not guarantee entrance into the kingdom. He called them to make difficult choices and make the difficult journey...the door is narrow, he said. He himself was making his way to Jerusalem to face rejection and eventual death.

**Jesus challenges us to make difficult choices, make the difficult journey, walk the path of trials, face testing times, enter through the narrow door...the way to the kingdom is not easy, but it is just the right way, the way made to fit our needs!** From the beginning of scriptures, we read about great men and women called to make these difficult choices and they in turn called their people to make hard choices. Moses and the prophets and finally Jesus offered people choices between life and death; way of the just and way of the wicked; good and bad; foolishness and wisdom.

**Pray for wisdom to discern and make good and wise choices and the courage to be faithful to the choices you make.**

**Saint of the day, October 30 - St. Alphonsus Rodriguez and 18 other saints are remembered this day.**

Born in Spain in 1533, Alphonsus inherited the family textile business at 23. Within the space of three years, his wife, daughter, and mother died; meanwhile, business was poor. Alphonsus stepped back and reassessed his life. He sold the business, and with his young son, moved into his sister's home. There he learned the discipline of prayer and meditation.

At the death of his son years later, Alphonsus, almost 40 by then, sought to join the Jesuits. He was not helped by his poor education. He applied twice before being admitted. For 45 years he served as doorkeeper at the Jesuits' college in Majorca. When not at his post, he was almost always at prayer, though he often encountered difficulties and temptations.

His holiness and prayerfulness attracted many to him, including Saint Peter Claver, then a Jesuit seminarian. Alphonsus' life as doorkeeper may have been humdrum, but centuries later he caught the attention of poet and fellow-Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkins, who made him the subject of one of his poems. Alphonsus died in 1617.

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