

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Sixth Week of Easter

**God shows forbearance by holding back judgment
that the world deserves.**

Acts 16:11-15

We continue to read about the good news being announced to many people in leading cities and districts. Hospitality continues to be one of the greatest virtues among those who came into the early Christian community.

Be hospitable! May you be a welcoming person and may your home be a welcoming and safe place!

Psalm 149

**Sing to the Lord a new song
Of praise in the assembly of the faithful,
Let Israel be glad in their maker,
Let the children of Zion rejoice in their king.**

John 15:26 – 16:4

This excerpt tells us that Jesus promised his disciples to send them his Holy Spirit. He told them that the Holy Spirit would give witness to the good news and would give them courage to stand up and witness to him in the face of difficulties.....

It is the Holy Spirit within us who moves us to respond to God. Our witness to Christ is inspired and sustained by the Holy Spirit from within. The spirit brings us into this fellowship with Christ and sustains that relationship.

Our witness comes from long, lasting fellowship and intimacy with Christ. The disciples were witnesses because they have been with him. We can witness Christ only when we have been with him. The witness comes from inner, personal conviction. There can be no effective witness without personal conviction. The Spirit empowers, strengthens, and sustains our conviction.

The witness flows into outward testimony. A Christian witness is a person who not only knows Christ but wants others to know Christ. He is prepared to speak what is in his heart. The Spirit empowers the person to speak the truth that is in the heart. The Spirit gives courage to stand up and witness to him in the face of difficulties.

Saint of the Day, May 6 – St. Dominic Savio and 12 other saints are remembered this day.

Dominic Savio was born on April 2, 1842 in the village of Riva in northern Italy. He was given the name Domenico at baptism. The name Domenico means "of the Lord" and the surname Savio means "wise". His parents had ten children in all. His father was a blacksmith and his mother, a seamstress. They were poor, hardworking and pious. His parents took great care to give him a Christian upbringing. By the age of four, Dominic was able to pray by himself and was occasionally found in solitude, praying. At the age of five, he learned to serve Mass, and would try to participate at Mass every day as well as go regularly to Confession. Having been permitted to make his First Communion at an early age, he had much reverence for the Eucharist.

Dominic joined Saint John Bosco as a student at the Oratory in Turin at the age of 12. He impressed Don Bosco with his desire to be a priest and to help him in his work with neglected boys. A peacemaker and an organizer, young Dominic founded the Company of the Immaculate Conception which, besides being devotional, aided St. John Bosco with the boys and with manual work. All the members except Dominic, would, in 1859, join St. John Bosco in the beginnings of his Salesian congregation. By that time, Dominic had been called home to heaven.

As a youth, Dominic spent hours rapt in prayer. His raptures he called "my distractions." Even in play, he said that at times, "It seems heaven is opening just above me. I am afraid I may say or do something that will make the other boys laugh." Dominic would say, "I can't do big things. But I want all I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God."

Dominic's health, always frail, led to lung problems and he was sent home to recuperate. As was the custom of the day, he was bled in the thought that this would help, but it only worsened his condition. He died on March 9, 1857, after receiving the Last Sacraments. Some thought that Dominic was too young to be considered a saint. Saint Pius X declared that just the opposite was true and went ahead with his cause. Dominic was canonized in 1954.

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