

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Fourth Week of Easter

**Serenity is the calm that comes
when you stop trying to control the uncontrollable.**

Acts 13:26-33

In this excerpt from Acts, we read about Paul speaking to the Jews settled in the cities of the Roman Empire. He spoke in their Synagogue about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and how this was in fulfillment of God's plan.

Psalm 2

**I myself have set up my king,
On Zion, my holy mountain.....
Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice before him;
With trembling pay homage to him.**

John 14:1-6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.....there are many dwelling places in my father's house.....I am the way, the truth and the life....."

There is a story of a missionary who was lost in the African jungle. When, finally, he reached a primitive village, he asked one of the villagers to lead him out. After more than an hour of hacking their way through thick jungle growth, the missionary said to his guide: "Are you sure, this is the way? Where is the path? His guide responded, "Sir, in this place there is no path. I am the path." This story takes us to the words of Christ: "I am the way, the truth and the life".

The ultimate meaning of Christ's life, death and resurrection was to reveal the God who.....

- makes a way out of no way,
- turns tragedy into triumph,
- creates something new from old,
- generates light in darkness,
- brings victory out of defeat,
- generates hope where there is despair,
- brings good out of evil,
- brings life out of death

Saint of the Day, May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker and 28 other saints are remembered this day.

In 1955, a huge part of the world was being influenced by Communism. Among the efforts of Pope Pius XII to counter the evil effects of Communism's atheistic ideology was the institution of a new feast in honor of St. Joseph the Worker. Pius XII placed it on May 1st, the same day that the Communists held their "May Day" celebration: an anti-religious, purely secular commemoration of labor. To counter the communist view, Pope Pius XII placed before the faithful the example of St. Joseph the Worker, true model of all workers. St. Joseph did his work, quite literally, for God. As a carpenter in Nazareth, he worked in order to support the Child Jesus and His Mother Mary. Jesus learned the carpenter's trade from St. Joseph and worked for the majority of His life as a carpenter Himself. The life of the Holy Family shows us the value, beauty, and sanctity of work.

St. Joseph the Worker is the patron saint of all workers who get up and go to work every day to support the family they love and cherish. Catholic tradition has always held a deep respect for the dignity of human labor as a participation in the creative work of God. The book of Genesis (2:15) tells us of God's command to man to till the earth and let it become fruitful.

Saint Joseph was a carpenter and taught Jesus the trade as well. Jesus spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph's carpentry shop before beginning his ministry. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."

Saint Joseph is a model of work with respect and dignity. Let us draw our inspiration from St. Joseph and participate in the creative activity of our God.

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