

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

All that happens to us, including our humiliations, our misfortunes, our embarrassments, etc. are given to us as resources to help us find and fulfill our God-given purpose.

Exodus 11:10-12:14

This Scripture passage gives us the details of the sacrifice of the Passover, which would become a memorial for all generations. The Lord's judgment would pass over the homes of the Israelites and they would flee Egypt and begin their journey to freedom.

Begin, if you have not begun yet and if you have already begun, to further your journey from whatever enslaves you into the freedom of the children of God!

Psalm 116

**How shall I make a return to the Lord
For all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up
And I will call upon the name of the Lord.**

Mathew 12:1-8

This story tells about the disciples plucking ears of corn on the Sabbath Day. The Scribes and the Pharisees became more suspicious of a teacher who allowed his disciples to violate the Sabbath law. This kind of thing could not be allowed to spread unchecked. The problem was that the Sabbath law was broken.

Jesus used this occasion to teach the disciples that the claim of human need takes precedence over ritual claims; that worship offered to God takes precedence over all Sabbath rules and regulations; that the steadfast love of God takes precedence over ritual sacrifice; that man is not at the service of the law, but the law is at the service of man..... Jesus insisted that the greatest ritual service is the service of human need.

Jesus called his disciples to go beyond ritual service, church service, synagogue service, etc. to the service of human need. In fact, the Gospels tell of only one synagogue service that Jesus conducted. But we have an abundance of incidence of Jesus at the service of human need.

Christian service is involvement in the demands and problems and tragedies of the human situation.

Saint of the Day, July 18 - St. Camillus de Lellis and 17 other saints are remembered this day

St. Camillus de Lellis was born May 25, 1550 at Bocchianico, Italy. His mother died when he was a child, his father neglected him, and he grew up with an excessive love for gambling. Camillus was ornery, rowdy, and quarrelsome from his youth. From age 16, he fought with the armies of Venice and Naples, and he sustained a wound on his leg that he would have for the rest of his life. Army life was over for him in 1574, at which time he gambled away everything he had - savings, weapons, literally down to his shirt.

At 17, in Rome, he entered the San Giacomo Hospital for Incurables as both patient and servant but was dismissed for quarrelsome behaviors after nine months. Penniless, he was able to find work at the Capuchin friary. One day, he was so moved by a sermon of the superior that he began a process of conversion. He became a Capuchin novice as a lay brother but was later rejected because of his leg wound. He then went to the Hospital for Incurables in Rome where he was both a patient and a caregiver. After another stint of service at San Giacomo, he came back to the Capuchins, only to be dismissed again, for the same reason.

Again, back at San Giacomo, his dedication was rewarded by his being made superintendent. Camillus observed that many of the caregivers neglected the needs of the patients, so he recruited virtuous men from the community to help him provide better care. It was then that he was inspired to form a community of men to help the sick. Feeling first the need to become a priest, he was allowed to enter the seminary and was ordained a priest in 1584. After ordination, Camillus founded the Ministers of the Sick, or Camellians, whose members served in hospitals, in prisons, on-board ships, and on the battlefield. He died in Rome on July 14, 1614 and was canonized a saint in 1746. He is the patron saint of hospitals, physicians, nurses, and the sick.

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