

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

**We can be serene even in the midst of calamities
and, by our serenity, make others more tranquil.**

(Swami Satchidananda)

1 Kings 21:17-29

Elijah met Ahab and told him about how much the Lord was displeased with his action at the promptings of Jezebel and that he and every man in his line would be destroyed. Ahab repented, fasted and humbled himself before God and experienced forgiving and healing love of God.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.

Mathew 5:43-48

Jesus calls, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Today's Gospel). Agape is the word used in the teaching of Jesus on loving enemies - the love that leads to perfection. If we regard a person with "agape", it means that no matter what that person does to us, no matter how he treats us, we will regard him with unconquerable benevolence, with goodwill - we will seek nothing but his highest good.

It is this "LOVE" - unconquerable benevolence that will make us "sons of God" - godlike persons. That is WHO GOD IS: LOVE. We are to image HIM - His Love - His Benevolence, seeking the highest good of all. God makes his sun rise on the good and on the wicked; He sends his rain on the just and the unjust. THIS WILL MAKE US SONS OF GOD and that is what it means to be "perfect as your father is perfect"

The Greek word for "Perfect" is "teleios". "Teleios" means an end, a purpose, an aim, a goal. A thing is "teleios" if it realizes the purpose for which it was planned. A person is perfect if that person realizes the purpose for which that person was created and sent into the world. A person is perfect if he fulfills the purpose for which he was created. Genesis tells us: "Let us make man in our own image and likeness". Man must image God. The characteristic (excuse the terminology) of God is: universal benevolence; unconquerable goodwill - seeking of the highest

good of every person - love of saint and sinner alike. No matter what man does to God, God seeks nothing but man's highest good.

Saint of the Day, June 16 – St. John Francis Regis and 18 other saints are remembered this day

John Francis Régis was born on January 31, 1597, into a wealthy family in southern France. He was educated at the Jesuit College of Béziers. On December 8, 1616, in his nineteenth year, he entered the Jesuit novitiate at Toulouse and took his vows two years later and was ordained a priest in 1630.

Following his ordination to the priesthood, John Francis undertook missionary work in various French towns. His sermons and discourses revealed the fervor within him and attracted people of all classes. Father Regis especially made himself available to the poor. He established the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, which organized charitable collections of money and food from the wealthy. He also established several hostels for prostitutes, and helped many become trained lace makers, which provided them with a stable income and an opportunity to avoid the threat of exploitation. Many mornings were spent in the confessional or at the altar celebrating Mass; afternoons were reserved for visits to prisons and hospitals.

For three years, Father Regis traveled throughout the diocese, conducting missions in advance of a visit by the bishop. He succeeded in converting many people and in bringing many others back to religious observances. Though Father Regis longed to work as a missionary among the Native Americans in Canada, he was to live out his days working for the Lord in the wildest and most desolate part of his native France.

The last four years of his life were spent preaching and organizing social services, especially for prisoners, the sick and the poor. In the autumn of 1640, Father Regis sensed that his days were coming to a conclusion. He settled some of his affairs and prepared for the end by continuing to do what he did so well: speaking to the people about the God who loved them. On December 31, he spent most of the day with his eyes on the crucifix. That evening, he died. His final words were: "Into thy hands I commend my spirit." John Francis Regis was canonized in 1737.

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