

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity comes when you trade expectations for acceptance.

Jeremiah 28:1-17

Jeremiah tried to bring hope to his people. He encouraged his people to trust in God to free them from the “yoke” of Babylon and give them freedom. The peace that they would find is not the work of men but the gift of God.

Seek the peace that only God can give you.

Psalms 119

**Remove from me the way of falsehood,
and favor me with your law.
Take not the word of truth from my mouth,
for in your ordinance is my hope.**

Matthew 14:13-21

After feeding five thousand with five loaves and a couple of fish, Jesus withdrew to the mountain alone for prayer. He sent the disciples ahead of him to the other side of the lake and they had to face strong headwinds. Jesus came to them on the troubled waters.

The Lord reaches out to us when we are in troubled waters and are facing strong headwinds. Be confident...stand strong.... hold your heads high!

The disciples were so frightened that they did not recognize the Lord reaching out to them. Fear has a way of blinding our eyes while simple faith opens our eyes. Peter saw his master and wanted to walk across to him over the troubled waters and he did. Peter lost his focus.....he saw how headstrong the wind was.....he became frightened, lost his strength and began to sink into the deep water. Faith gives us a new vision...a vision of strength, of the presence of something and of someone far greater than ourselves in whom we can put our trust and face what must be faced.

Stay focused! Keep your eyes on the Lord and his strength!

Saint of the Day, August 3 - St. Peter Julian Eymard and 11 other saints are remembered this day

Peter Julian Eymard was born on February 4, 1811 at La Mure, Isère in the French Alps. When his mother died in 1828 Julian resolved to enter the novitiate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and, despite his father's opposition, did so in June 1829. His first attempt as a seminarian ended because of serious illness. Throughout his life, he suffered from poor health, particularly 'weakness of the lungs' and migraine headaches.

After his father's death in 1831, he succeeded, with the help of his former superior, in gaining admission to the major seminary of the Grenoble diocese. On July 20, 1834, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Grenoble and was assigned as assistant pastor at the town of Chatte, and three years later, appointed pastor of Mount Saint-Eymard. He was dissatisfied with parish work and decided to join the Marists (the Society of Mary). On August 20, 1837, he entered the Society of Mary seminary at Lyon and made his profession in February 1840. He worked with lay organizations promoting devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Eucharist, particularly in the Forty Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He rose to the position of Provincial of the Society at Lyon in 1844.

After praying at the shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere on January 21, 1851, Peter Julian Eymard moved to establish a Marist community dedicated to eucharistic adoration. However, his desire to establish a separate fraternity promoting adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was not seen as part of the charism of the Marists. His superiors disapproved, transferring him to the Marist College at La Seyne-sur-Mer. Eventually, he resolved to leave the Society of Mary to begin his new religious congregation with the diocesan priest Raymond de Cuers. On May 13, 1856, the Paris bishops consented to his plans for a 'Society of the Blessed Sacrament'. After many trials, Peter Julian Eymard and Raymond de Cuers established public exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris on January 6, 1857.

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament began working with children in Paris to prepare them to receive their First Communion. It also reached out to non-practicing Catholics, inviting them to repent and begin receiving Communion again. Father Eymard established a common rule for the members of the society and worked toward papal approval. A second community was established in Marseille in 1859, and a third in Angers in 1862. Pope Pius IX granted a Decree of Approbation in June 1863. Peter Julian Eymard died on August 1, 1868 and was canonized on December 9, 1962 by Pope John XXIII.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

