

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Sixth Week of Easter

All have sinned but are justified by God's grace of forbearance.

(Romans 3:23-26)

Acts 18:9-18

Paul continued to encounter many difficulties, oppositions and persecutions. He was brought to trial, but the judge saw it as a political trial and discontinued hearing. The Lord continued to bless him on his journey with many who supported him and gifted him with courage to proclaim the good news.

Be faithful to your calling even in times of trials!

Psalm 47

**All you peoples, clap your hands,
Shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the Lord, the most high, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth.**

John 16:20-23

In this Gospel passage Jesus describes the experience of the disciples at his leaving them in terms of childbirth. The process requires time and patient endurance, but the result will be the joy that will never be taken away. The joy the world gives is at the mercy of the world. The joy Christ gives is independent of anything the world can offer. The joy which Christ gives is complete, enduring, pure, unmixed, and perfect. The world's joy is incomplete, wears out and passes away.

In Christian joy, the pain which went before is forgotten. If a person's fidelity costs much, he/she will forget the cost in lasting joy. There will be fullness of knowledge. Jesus says, "you will not need to ask any more questions". There are always unanswered questions, unsolved problems, and uncertain future. But there is fullness of knowledge in Christ. In Christ you come to know yourself fully, you come to know humanity in its fullness and you come to know God as God is. Our knowledge is fragmented. **In Christ fragmented knowledge finds unity and integrity and wholeness.**

In Christ we have a new relationship with God because we know God as God is, we know the heart of God, we know the heart of Love. In this relationship, Jesus says, we may ask anything and are sure to get it. Our knowledge is complete and our joy is full and pure and indestructible.

Saint of the day, May 10 - St. Veronica Giuliani and 14 other saints are remembered this day.

Veronica was born Ursula Giuliani at Mercatelli, Italy on December 27, 1660. She was the youngest of seven sisters, three of whom embraced the monastic life. At the age of three years Giuliani supposedly began to show great compassion for the poor. She would set apart a portion of her food for them, and even part with her clothes when she met a poor child scantily clad. Her mother died when Ursula was seven years of age. It is said that when her mother was dying she called her five daughters to her bedside and entrusted each of them to one of the five wounds of Jesus. Veronica was entrusted to the wound below Christ's heart.

At the age of 17, Veronica joined the Poor Clares directed by the Capuchins. Her father had wanted her to marry, but she convinced him to allow her to become a nun. In her first years in the monastery, she worked in the kitchen, infirmary, sacristy, and also served as portress. At the age of 34, she was made novice mistress, a position she held for 22 years. When she was 37, Veronica received the stigmata. Life was not the same after that.

Church authorities in Rome wanted to test Veronica's authenticity and so conducted an investigation. She lost the office of novice mistress temporarily and was not allowed to attend Mass except on Sundays or holy days. Through all of this Veronica did not become bitter, and the investigation eventually restored her as novice mistress. Though she protested against it, at the age of 56 she was elected abbess, an office she held for 11 years until her death. Veronica was very devoted to the Eucharist and to the Sacred Heart. She offered her sufferings for the missions, died in 1727, and was canonized in 1839.

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