MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time

The most important accomplishment in a whole day is being still and serene in the midst of a busy day.

Revelation 14:1-5

This excerpt contains another vision of John where he sees the faithful survive the anger of hostile powers. He sees the faithful survivors, 144,000 of them (signifying completeness, perfection and inclusiveness), as pure, without deceit, without flow, with names of the Lamb and of his father written on their forehead (identified as God's own) rejoicing and singing hymns before the throne of God.

Psalm 24

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness;
The world and all who dwell on it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established upon the rivers.

Luke 21:1-4

In the court of the women in the temple, there were thirteen collection boxes known as the trumpets. They were shaped like trumpets with the narrow part at the top and the wider part at the foot. Each was assigned to offerings for a different purpose - for the wood that was burned for sacrifice, for the incense burned on the altar, for the upkeep of the vessels and so on. It is into these that the rich were flinging their coins. Among them was a poor widow who put in "two lepta". A lepton was the smallest of coins; the name means "the thin one". Jesus said, this "thin one" outvalued all the other offerings because it was all she had. She gave from her want and not from her surplus. **She was in her gift and she was her gift.**

The value of any gift is in the spirit in which it is given and the sacrifice which it involves and above all the presence of the giver in the gift. The gift must carry something of the giver. It is not the size or the weight or the shape or the color or glitter or the glamour, but the presence of the giver in the gift that makes the gift a GIFT.

Walk softly. Give generously. Listen intensely. Speak tenderly. Pray fervently.

Saint of the Day, November 23 - Saint Clement and 11 other saints are remembered this day.

Clement of Rome was the third successor of Saint Peter, reigning as pope during the last decade of the first century. He's known as one of the Church's five "Apostolic Fathers," those who provided a direct link between the Apostles and later generations of Church Fathers.

Clément's First Epistle to the Corinthians was preserved and widely read in the early Church. This letter from the bishop of Rome to the Church in Corinth concerns a split that alienated a large number of the laity from the clergy. Deploring the unauthorized and unjustifiable division in the Corinthian community, Clement urged charity to heal the rift. According to tradition, Clement was imprisoned under the Emperor Trajan and during this time led a ministry among fellow prisoners. Thereafter he was executed by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea. He was Pope, probably, from the year 88 till his death in 99.

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