

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

**Ego says, "This must change." Your soul says, "This is fine."
Listen to your soul and you will have serenity within.**

2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15, 18

Kings and people had become unfaithful to Yahweh their God and his laws and followed rites and religious practices of other nations. Prophets had warned them to give up their ways and turned to Yahweh and they failed to listen. The king of Assyria occupied the whole land and deported the Israelites to Assyria, except the tribe of Judah.

Be faithful to your religious practices. Listen to the prophetic voices around you.

Psalm 60

**God, you have raised for those who fear you a banner,
To which they may flee out of bowshot.
That your loved ones may escape,
Help us by your right hand and answer us.....**

Mathew: 7:1-5

Jesus reminded the disciples of the human tendency to pass judgments on the shortcomings of others. He taught them to be cautious and kind to others in their weakness since no one is free from weaknesses and limitations and shortcomings. He challenged them to be aware of their own weaknesses and correct them before they pass judgments on others.

The Rabbis laid it down: there are six great works that brought a man credit in this world and profit in the world to come: study, visiting the sick, hospitality, devotion in prayer, education of children in the law and thinking the best of other people.

Kindliness in judgment is nothing less than a sacred duty. Misjudgment has cost too much to people and brought chaos to nations. Be compassionate in your judgments

Think well of others! Speak well of others!

Be your best! Bring out the best from you and call forth the best from others.

Saint of the Day, June 22 - St. Thomas More and 19 other saints are remembered this day.

Thomas More was born in London on February 7, 1478. He was the son of Sir John More, a successful lawyer and later a judge, and his wife Agnes. He was the second of six children. He was educated at St Anthony's School, then considered one of London's best schools. From 1490 to 1492, More served John Morton, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor of England, as a household page.

More began his studies at Oxford in 1492, and received a classical education, becoming proficient in both Latin and Greek. He left Oxford after two years, at his father's insistence, to begin legal training in London.

More once seriously contemplated abandoning his legal career to become a monk. Between 1503 and 1504 he lived near the Carthusian monastery outside the walls of London and joined in the monks' spiritual exercises. Although he deeply admired their piety, More ultimately decided to remain a layman, standing for election to Parliament in 1504 and marrying the following year. He and his wife Jane had four children.

More held an important position in Politics and government and was very successful as a writer and a lawyer. He became a member of Parliament, Head of the House of Commons, Treasurer and devoted confidant of England's King Henry VIII.

King Henry was Catholic, but his personal wants came first. He wanted a male heir and blamed Queen Catherine of Aragon, his wife of 18 years, for not producing one. He demanded an annulment, so he could marry another woman. Catherine refused. He argued before Thomas More that Scripture supported his view that his marriage was invalid because Catherine had been first married to his brother. Thomas tried to find validity in the king's position, but ultimately, he could not agree with him. More would not take the King's request for an annulment to the pope.

King Henry listened to Protestant advisors and severed his ties to the Roman Catholic Church. He appointed himself head of the Church of England and declared his marriage to Catherine invalid. Thomas More would not recognize the King as head of the Church of England, and he was imprisoned for a year in the Tower of London. False testimony convicted More of treason, and he was beheaded on July 6, 1535. He was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 19, 1935

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