MORNING PRAYER

Saturday, Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time

If you are depressed, you are living in the past. If you are anxious, you are living in the future. If you are at peace, you are living in the present.
(Lao Tzu)

Revelation 11:4-12

The two witnesses mentioned in this excerpt have been interpreted as the law and the prophets, Old Testament and New Testament, Enoch and Elijah, Moses and Elijah and so on. Whatever the interpretations may be, the two witnesses were to be slain by the beast (Antichrist) from the abyss after their allotted time of preaching. However, the breath of life would enter the slain witnesses and they would be drawn into heaven.

God's prophets and witnesses will live again.

Psalm 144

Blessed be the Lord, my rock,
Who trains my hands for battle, my fingers for war.
My refuge and my fortress,
My stronghold, my deliverer,
My shield in whom I trust…….

Luke 20: 27-40

The Sadducees asked Jesus about the law of the "Levirate" marriage, which requires that if a man died leaving no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise posterity to his brother. The reason for this law was to provide for the widow, the family name and the inheritance.

The concern of the Sadducees was not the law itself or its legality or validity. They wanted to ridicule Jesus about his teaching on Resurrection and eternal life. Their question was about how relationships will be sorted out in the resurrection. The response of Jesus was very simple: no one needs to worry about such human matters in the resurrection because God is the God of life not of death.

Death comes to a close - living goes on and on.....death is the door to eternity…. all are alive in God.

Saint of the Day, November 21 - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and 11 other saints are remembered this day.

The feast of the presentation of Mary dates back to the 6th century in the East and the 15th century in the West. It is based on an ancient tradition that Mary was taken to the temple in Jerusalem when she was 3-years-old and dedicated to God. A church was built there in honor of this mystery. The Eastern Church was more interested in the feast, but it does appear in the West in the 11th century and became a feast of the universal Church in the 16th century.

We read about Mary's birth and of her presentation in the temple only in apocryphal literature. The Gospel of James (unrecognized as historical) tells us that Anna and Joachim offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was 3 years old. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless. Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

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