

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Twenty Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

**The world changes - circumstances change and we change,
but God's Word never changes. His word is steadfast.**

Ezra 1:1-6

Ezra gave his people a spiritual unity without which the small Jewish community that had just returned from exile would never have survived. In the reading of today, Ezra speaks of how God inspired the Persian King Cyrus to build the temple. The very purpose of the temple was to gather the people around Yahweh and bring them into a spiritual communion, which always was the strength of the Jewish community wherever they were. He called them to the ideal of the Torah - God's law.

Never be ashamed of the ideal, the vision that unites. Be faithful to the ideal which keeps you in communion with God and others!

Psalm 126

**Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.
Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.**

Luke 8:16-18

Jesus invited his listeners to let their light shine. Hard it may be, never be ashamed of giving witness to who you are and whose you are and whom you serve! Let your goodness be visible in the way you live out your life. Be humble but never be ashamed of showing who you are!

We can't all be shining examples. But we can, at least, twinkle a little!

Jesus spoke of the impossibility of secrecy! We try to hide certain things from ourselves, certain things from others and certain things, even from God! Happy is the person with nothing to hide!

Jesus spoke to them about the laws of increase and decrease. The man who has will get more and the man who has not, will lose even the little he thinks he has! Another way of expressing it would be: there is no standing still in life! Life is dynamic and it moves, changes, grows or weakens - there is no standing still!

Saint of the Day, September 25 - St. Louis Martin and Azélie Guérin and 29 other saints are remembered this day

Louis Joseph Aloys Stanislaus Martin was born on August 22, 1823 in Bordeaux, Gironde, France. Although Louis intended to become a monk, wishing to enter the Augustinian Great St. Bernard Monastery, he was rejected because he did not succeed at learning Latin. Later he decided to become a watchmaker and studied his craft in Rennes and in Strasbourg.

Azélie-Marie Guérin was born in Gandelain, Orne, France on December 23, 1831. She wanted to become a nun but was turned away by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul due to respiratory difficulties and recurrent headaches. She later decided to become a lacemaker, manufacturing Alençon lace.

Louis and Azélie met, fell in love and got married in 1858. Azélie's business became so successful that, in 1870, Louis sold his watchmaking business to go into partnership with her. They were blessed with nine children, though two sons and two daughters died in infancy.

Azélie died from breast cancer in 1877 and Louis then moved the family to Lisieux to be near his brother and sister-in-law, who helped with the education of his five surviving girls. His health began to fail after his 15-year-old daughter entered the Monastery of Mount Carmel at Lisieux in 1888. Louis died in 1894, a few months after being committed to a sanitarium.

The home that Louis and Azélie created nurtured the sanctity of all their children, but especially their youngest, who is known to us as Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Louis and Azélie were canonized by Pope Francis on October 18, 2015.

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