

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Second Week of Lent

**Serenity is not freedom from the storm,
but peace in the middle of the storm.**

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28

Joseph was the best loved of his father's sons. His brothers became jealous and plotted to kill him. God had his plan, and he came to save Joseph and called him to be an important person in the history of salvation. **The stone which the builders rejected became the corner stone.....What was rejected by men became vital for salvation.**

Jealousy is a betrayal of our solidarity with our brothers and sisters. Jealousy and envy destroy our communion, our fellowship, our common "sonship".

Acceptance and affirmation of each other and each other's gifts build our communion and fellowship with one another. We are members of one family with God as our loving and gracious Father. We are called to rejoice in the many gifts of God that we recognize in ourselves as well as in others.

Psalm 105

**Glory in God's holy name; rejoice O heart that seek the Lord!
Look to the Lord in his strength; seek to serve him constantly.**

Mathew 21:33-43, 45-46

This Parable of the tenant farmers teaches us many things: that we are trusted stewards; that we are trusted to cultivate and tenderly care for God's gifts; that our God has graciously gifted us with all that is necessary for our life and mission; that our God is patient and compassionate and that abuse of our gifts and talents brings us disaster.

Reflect on being good, faithful and trusted stewards of God's gifts.

Reflect on how you have been appreciating and cultivating your gifts.

Reflect on the "Graciousness" of God. Reflect on your own need to be gracious in your ways.

Saint of the day, March 6 - St. Colette and 20 other saints are remembered this day

St. Colette was born Nicole Boellet (or Boylet) in the village of Corbie, in France, on January 13, 1381 to Robert Boellet, a poor carpenter at the noted Benedictine Abbey of Corbie, and to his wife, Marguerite Moyon. Her parents had grown old without having children, before praying to Saint Nicholas for help in having a child. Their prayers were answered when, at the age of 60, Marguerite gave birth to a daughter. Out of gratitude, they named the baby after the saint to whom they credited the miracle of her birth. She was affectionately called Nicolette by her parents, which soon came to be shorted to Colette, by which name she is known.

After her parents died in 1399, Colette joined the Beguines (lay religious orders that were active in Northern Europe in 12-16 centuries) but found their manner of life unchallenging. Joining a Benedictine order as a lay sister, she again became dissatisfied. In September 1402, Colette received the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis and became a hermit under the direction of the Abbot of Corbie, living near the abbey church. After four years of following this ascetic way of life, through several dreams and visions, she came to believe that she was being called to reform the Franciscan Second Order and to return it to its original Franciscan ideals of absolute poverty and austerity.

In October 1406, she turned to the Antipope Benedict XIII of Avignon who was recognized in France as the rightful pope. Benedict received her in southern France, and allowed her to transfer to the Order of Poor Clares. Additionally, he empowered her through several papal bulls, issued between 1406 and 1412, to found new monasteries and to complete the reform of the Order. During her lifetime 18 monasteries of her reform were founded. For the monasteries which followed her reform, she prescribed extreme poverty, going barefoot, and the observance of perpetual fasting and abstinence. She died on March 6, 1447 and was canonized in 1807.

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