

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time

**Neither sin nor disobedience nor any act of man
can frustrate the plan and purpose of God.**

(Romans 11:29-36)

I Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63

Persecution of the Israelites began under king Antiochus Epiphanes. Many Israelites gave up their traditions and joined the “life-style of the Gentiles”, sacrificed to idols, profaned the Sabbath, etc. But many stood strong and remained faithful to their traditions, to the law of Yahweh rather than obey the King and his orders. Many chose to die in faithfulness to Yahweh and His law. This is the beginning of the Maccabee revolution.

Psalms 119

**Redeem me from oppression of men,
that I may keep your precepts.
I am attacked by malicious persecutors,
Who are far from your law!**

Luke 18:35-43

The blind man near Jericho, cried out “have pity on me, Jesus”. What do you want me to do for you? Jesus asked. The blind man responded: “I want to see”. The blind man was determined to come face to face with Jesus. He refused to be silent. He refused to be restrained. The urgency of his need drove him into the presence of Jesus. He was passionate. His desire was intense. He wanted to see.

How intense, how passionate, how deep is your desire to know, to see.....? Try to make this your prayer this week: “Master, I want to see”. Let the Lord open your eyes...the eyes of your mind and your heart.....let him help you see yourself better, see the world more positively and creatively and the Lord more fully....

When the blind man cried out Jesus was busy with discoursing to the crowd, like any other Rabbi. He stopped at the blind man’s cry of urgency. For Jesus, words took second place to deeds. Response to the human person in need was a priority. Many admire a man with great ideas, but they love a man with a big heart.

Have a big heart! Live from the heart! Reach out to someone today. Let him/her see what’s in your heart!

Saint of the Day, November 17 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary and 20 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, also known as St. Elizabeth of Thuringia, was born in Hungary on July 7, 1207 to the Hungarian King Andrew II and Gertrude of Merania. While Elizabeth was very young, her father arranged for her to be married to Ludwig IV of Thuringia, a German nobleman.

Elizabeth's mother, Gertrude, was murdered in 1213, when Elizabeth was just six years old. From this point on, Elizabeth's perspective on life and death dramatically changed and she sought peace with prayer.

In 1221 she was formally married to Ludwig, whom she deeply loved. Together the couple had three beautiful children, two of whom became members of nobility and the third entering the religious life, becoming abbess of a German convent. Elizabeth continued to live a life full of prayer and service to the poor. Ludwig, who was now one of the rulers of Thuringia, supported all of Elizabeth's religious endeavors. She began to lead an austere simple life, practiced penance, and devoted herself to works of charity. She used her royal position to advance her mission for charity.

In 1223, Franciscan friars arrived in Thuringia and taught 16-year-old Elizabeth all about Francis of Assisi's ideals. She then decided to live her life mirroring his. She wore simple clothing and set aside time every day to take bread to hundreds of poor people in her land. Ludwig and Elizabeth were politically powerful and lived with a remarkable generosity toward the poor.

In 1226, when disease and floods struck Thuringia, Elizabeth took to caring for the victims. It is said she even gave away the royal's clothing and goods to the afflicted people. Elizabeth had a hospital built and provided for almost a thousand poor people daily. Elizabeth's life was full of love and faith. However, tragedy struck when Ludwig passed away from illness in 1227. Elizabeth vowed to never remarry and to live a life similar to a nun, despite pressure from relatives. Elizabeth's life was consumed deeply by her devotion to God and her charitable work. She passed away at the age of 24, on November 17, 1231 in Marburg, Hesse.

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