

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Second Week in Ordinary Time

**Peace is not merely the absence of war. It is also a state of mind.
Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people.**

(Jawaharlal Nehru)

1 Samuel 24:3-21

This excerpt tells how Saul had retired into the cave and unwittingly put himself within David's reach. David's men encouraged him to take this opportunity to get rid of Saul. But David refused to do any injury to his king and honored him as the Lord' anointed. Saul was moved by the attitudes and action of David, praised his generosity and acknowledged that he, Saul was wrong and had made unjust judgments of David. Saul blessed David for his generosity.

Be gracious and be generous in your relationships! Be a forgiving and reconciling person! Be noble in your ways!

Psalm 57

**Have pity on me O God, have pity on me,
for in you I take refuge.
In the shadow of your wings, I take refuge,
till harm pass by!**

Mark 3:13-19

Jesus withdrew to the mountain and chose twelve of his companions and sent them with good news. Jesus came to an important point in his life. He proclaimed a message, he chose his method and he went throughout Galilee preaching and healing. He made an impact. He had to find a way to make his message permanent, stabilize the movement he started and disseminate his message in an age where modern media was not available.

Jesus chose men on whose hearts he could write his good news. He began with a small group – the message was proclaimed and lived out in fellowship. The way of the Pharisees was separation..... the way of Jesus was fellowship.

Jesus began with a mixed group. Men, who, ordinarily, couldn't be found together, came together around Jesus. The presence of Jesus among them enabled them to be together.

The presence of Jesus in our life enables us to be deeply respectful of each other, to rise above our differences and form community with others.

Saint of the Day, January 23 - St. Marianne Cope and 17 other saints are remembered this day.

Marianne was born to Peter and Barbara Cope of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany on January 23, 1838. Two years later the Cope family emigrated to the United States and settled in Utica, New York. Young Barbara worked in a factory until August 1862, when she went to the Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York. After profession in November of the following year, she began teaching at Assumption parish school.

Marianne held the post of superior in several places and was twice the novice mistress of her congregation. A natural leader, three different times, she was superior of St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, where she learned much that would be useful during her years in Hawaii.

Elected provincial in 1877, Mother Marianne was unanimously re-elected in 1881. Two years later the Hawaiian government was searching for someone to run the Kakaako Receiving Station for people suspected of having leprosy. More than 50 religious communities in the United States and Canada were asked. When the request was put to the Syracuse sisters, 35 of them volunteered immediately. On October 22, 1883, Mother Marianne and six other sisters left for Hawaii where they took charge of the Kakaako Receiving Station outside Honolulu; on the island of Maui they also opened a hospital and a school for girls.

In 1888, Mother Marianne and two sisters went to Molokai to open a home for "unprotected women and girls" there. On Molokai she took charge of the home that Saint Damien de Veuster had established for men and boys. Mother Marianne changed life on Molokai by introducing cleanliness, pride, and fun to the colony. Bright scarves and pretty dresses for the women were part of her approach.

Mother Marianne came to be known as Mother Marianne of Molokai. Awarded the Royal Order of Kapiolani by the Hawaiian government and celebrated in a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, Mother Marianne continued her work faithfully. Her sisters have attracted vocations among the Hawaiian people and still work on Molokai. Mother Marianne died on August 9, 1918 and was beatified in 2005 and canonized seven years later.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

