

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Second Week of Lent

Find serenity by being patient with self and others.

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20

The prophet calls his people to listen to God's word and cleanse themselves. He calls them to give up evil ways and learn to do good. Stay focused on living life of justice and the care of the widows, orphans and the marginalized in your community.

Listen to the Lord's call: "come now, let us set things right!" What an amazing and humbling invitation: "let us set things right"!

Psalm 50

**He that offers praise as a sacrifice glorifies me;
And to him that goes the right way,
I will show the salvation of God.**

Mathew 23:1-12

Jesus cautions us about the ways of the scribes and the Pharisees and offers us new challenges and new ways of being faithful to God's call. Beware of the ways of the scribes and Pharisees. They teach ideals which they do not practice. Their practices are without spirit, meant to make an impression on people. They look for applause, for praise, position, etc.

Welcome the Gospel values and be faithful. But be cautious about following the ways of those who teach and preach. Be discerning about whom you choose to follow.

The disciple of Jesus must follow the example of the Master and be ready to serve. The greatness of a disciple lies in giving himself in service. Greatness comes from being humble in service and not in occupying places of honor.

Be humble in your ways! And be ready to serve following the example of the Master. Let the service be an expression of your love for God and God's people.

Saint of the day, March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel and 19 other saints are remembered his day.

Katherine was born in Pennsylvania in 1858. Her parents were wealthy, but prayerful and generous to charitable causes. The family traveled throughout the United States and Katherine witnessed the plight of the American Indian and the African American communities. After the death of their father, Katherine and her two sisters traveled to Europe. While they were in Rome, Katherine requested an audience with Pope Leo XIII to ask him to send missionaries to the American Indians in the western United States. In response, Pope Leo suggested that Katherine herself become a missionary.

Katherine had already fallen in love with Christ and felt a strong urge to serve him. She professed her vows in 1891 and took the name of Mother Katherine. She began the religious order, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. In 1915, she founded Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university for African Americans. By the time of her death in 1955, she established 63 schools and 50 missions. Mother Katherine was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul in 2000, and she is the patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists. She is the second USA born person to be canonized a saint.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs