MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Thirty-second Week in Ordinary Time

The most wonderful taste of serenity is found by the love you have for yourself, and those around you.

Titus 2:1-8, 11-14

The whole of chapter 2 is about Christian character. This excerpt describes what befits men and women of all ages and all walks of life: to be sober, serious, prudent, chaste, kind, obedient, dutiful, disciplined and healthy in faith, love and courage and offers a simple Christian philosophy of life: reject godless ways, live temperately, justly and devoutly. This is the way Christians must live as they await the second coming of Christ.

Psalm 37

Trust in the Lord and do good,
that you may dwell in the land and be fed in security.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will grant you your heart's requests.

Luke 17:7-10

Jesus uses the example of a servant, who comes in from the filed after a day's work, being asked to do more work. Should this servant expect gratitude form his master for doing his duty? The featured servant is doing double duty, more than expected of him, more than his assigned duty. The servant is to see this "call beyond duty" as a gift, an honor and an expression of the master's gratitude.

The gift of faith and the relationship that grows from it makes it possible for us to understand the attitude of grateful service.

Be like the Master, Jesus, who came to serve and serve generously.

Stir into flame the gift of faith. Keep the prayer going: Lord, increase our faith.

Saint of the Day, November 10 - Pope St. Leo the Great and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Leo the Great, also known as Pope Saint Leo I, was born into a Roman aristocratic family in Rome, Italy around the year 400. He was the first pope to be given the title "the Great." Details pertaining to Leo's place of birth are not known, but it is believed that his ancestors come from Tuscany.

St. Leo the Great became a very well-known deacon of the Church by 431, serving the church under the pontificate of Pope Celestine I. Leo was widely respected for his love for the Lord, intelligence and persuasive nature. He was also gifted in bringing reconciliation between disputing groups of Christians. He was often sent out to settle disputes, both secular and theological.

Leo was unanimously elected as pope to succeed Pope Sixtus III in 440. Pope Leo was deeply dedicated to his service as pope. He tirelessly fought to preserve the unity of the Church and its faith; and to ensure the safety of his people against invasions from armies which sought to destroy the Church and the Christian influence. Pope Leo I worked to oppose and root out numerous heresies which were threatening the Western Church. Among them were Pelagianism, which denied the necessity of God's grace for salvation and Manichaeism which denied the goodness of the human body, creation, and saw even matter itself as evil.

Pope Leo also resolved the doctrinal controversy regarding the nature of Jesus. His famous letter articulated the Church's official teaching on Jesus Christ as One Person with a human and a divine nature which could not be separated.

Along with his dynamic faith and outstanding theological wisdom, Pope Leo I was also courageous. Attila the Hun and his huge army and the later Invaders terrified the emperor and his generals as well as the citizens of Italy. The gentle, scholarly Pope Leo the Great met them unarmed and alone, trusting in divine providence. His courage and faith persuaded Attila and the later invaders to turn away from Rome. Two years later, he had to meet the Vandals and plead for mercy. He was unable to prevent them from taking the city but managed to get them to agree not to loot it, burn its buildings or murder its people. In between invasions, he helped the Church to understand why it celebrates feasts and holy seasons. Many of his homilies encouraged people to provide for the poor. He trusted God, he loved the Church, he loved people, he was gentle and courageous, he was great. He died on November 10, 461 in Rome, Italy

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