

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Wednesday, Ninth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Forbearance is the highest expression of freedom.**  
(Swami Vivekananda)

### **2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12**

Paul begins this letter with a profound prayer: “May grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord be with you” ..... “I thank God.... whenever I remember you in my prayer...night and day”. **Make this prayer your prayer today.**

He encouraged Timothy to “stir into flame the gift of God....and never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord...” and to bear hardship for the Gospel...

**Fan into flame the spark that is within you!**

### **Palm 123**

**To you, I lift up my eyes,  
who are enthroned in heaven,  
Behold, as the eyes of servants  
are on the hands of their masters.....  
So are our eyes on the Lord our God.....**

### **Mark 12:18-27**

Mark tells us of another trick question that the Sadducees asked Jesus. Even a trick question became an opportunity to proclaim eternal truth: “God is the God of the living and not of the dead”. Jesus declared his Jewish ancestors to be alive with God.

**Use every opportunity, even unpleasant ones, to give witness to truth.**

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. The question they asked made the idea of the resurrection sound ridiculous. The response Jesus gave made the idea of the resurrection not only a reality but the idea of the absence of an afterlife even more ridiculous. God is the God of living persons and not of dead bodies. Living God is the God of living beings. Jesus used this opportunity to teach the Sadducees how wrong they were and to teach them that resurrection is a reality.

**Eventually, Jesus would teach them and he teaches us today that he is the resurrection and the life....he who believes in him will never die.**

## **Saint of the Day, June 5 - St. Boniface and 37 other saints are remembered this day.**

St. Boniface was born in the year 675 in Crediton, Devon, England during very difficult circumstances. People were afraid of leaving their homes because of the vandals, warrior tribes raiding their villages. Boniface became a Benedictine monk and later a priest. He felt called to preach the Gospel to the vandals. In 719 Pope Gregory sent Boniface to Germany as a missionary and later to Holland to work with the vandals who had settled there.

Many of the Christian converts had returned to paganism, and for those who still called themselves Christian, their beliefs were not in line with all teachings of the Church. The priests themselves were lax or improperly trained. Boniface reported his findings to Pope Gregory, and Pope Gregory instructed him to reform the German Church. In 722, Boniface became Bishop. Over time, Boniface restored the obedience of the clergy to their bishops in union with the pope of Rome. He destroyed idols and pagan temples and built churches on those sites.

Many Benedictine monks and nuns followed him. He set up many prayer houses, seminaries and churches. On June 5, 754, as he was preaching the Gospel in Frisia, Boniface and several other companions were murdered by a group of local inhabitants.

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