MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time

Your serenity matters to heaven. God's presence encapsulates your life.

(Max Lucado)

Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5

John wrote to the seven Churches in the province of Asia what he has come to know as the revelation of God through Jesus Christ. This excerpt tells us of his message to the Church in Ephesus. He told them about how much he has appreciated their faith, patient endurance of hardship, hard work and so on. However, he told them that they had lost their original enthusiasm and called them to return to their true spirit.

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked
Nor walk in the way of sinners, nor sits in the company of the insolent,
But delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on his law day and night.

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 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 16 - St. Margaret of Scotland and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Margaret of Scotland, or Margaret of Wessex, was an English princess born in Hungary to Princess Agatha of Hungary and English Prince Edward (in exile) around 1045. Margaret and her family returned to England when she was 10-years-old and her father was called back as a potential successor to the throne. However, Edward died immediately after the family arrived, but Margaret continued to reside at the English court. Margaret's family fled from William the Conqueror after his victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Her widowed mother set out to take her children north to Northumbria.

Tradition says, Agatha decided to leave Northumbria and return to the continent, but her family's ship got caught in a storm. The storm drove their ship even more north to Scotland, where they were shipwrecked in 1068. The spot they landed on is now known as "St. Margaret's Hope."

Malcolm Canmore III, the king of Scotland, welcomed Margaret and her family and put them under his protection. He soon fell deeply in love with the beautiful and kind princess. Margaret and Malcolm became married in 1070 at the castle of Dunfermline. Together, they had eight children, six sons and two daughters. All of whom were raised with deep Catholic Christian faith. They lived as a holy family, a domestic church.

Margaret's kind-nature and good heart was a strong influence on Malcolm's reign. She softened his temper and helped him become a virtuous King of Scotland. Together they prayed, fed the hungry, and offered a powerful example of living faith in action. Margaret was placed in charge of all domestic affairs and was often consulted with state matters, as well. She promoted the arts and education in Scotland. She encouraged Church synods and was involved in efforts to correct the religious abuses involving Bishops, priests and laypeople. Her impact in Scotland led her to being referred to as, "The Pearl of Scotland." She lived holiness of life as a wife, mother and lay woman; truly in love with Jesus Christ.

In 1093, Malcolm and their oldest son were killed during the Battle of Alnwick. Already ill and worn from a life full of austerity and fasting, Margaret passed away four days after her husband, on November 16, 1093. In 1250, Pope Innocent IV canonized Margaret as a Saint, acknowledging her life of holiness and extraordinary virtue.

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