

MORNING MEDITATION

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Forbearance is tolerating a person and not tolerating what is done.

Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8-9

Hosea speaks of the love God has for his people. God's love is the basis and the source of Israel's redemption. Hosea says God's love can not destroy - only give life!

Isaiah 12:2-6

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the Lord,
And he has been my savior.
With joy I draw water at the fountain of salvation.

Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19

Paul expresses his joy in being chosen to proclaim the mystery of God's love, manifested in Christ and in the Church, The Holy Spirit can give s a glimpse of this mystery; but we must live it in order to understand it well.

John 19:31-37

When the Romans crucified a criminal, the victim was left to die on the cross. The body was not buried, but left to the vultures, crows, and dogs. The Jews were more merciful in this regard. The crucified body was not to be left all night on the tree, but to be buried on the same day (Deut.21:22-23). At the crucifixion of Jesus, it was even more important that his body was not left on the cross because the next day was the special Sabbath of the Passover. The custom was to smash the limbs to dispatch the crucified if he lingered longer. In the case of Jesus, this was not done because he was already dead.

One of the soldiers thrust a spear into his side, perhaps to make doubly sure that Jesus was dead. And water and blood flowed from his side. Many interpretations have been given to this event. It has been suggested that the water and the blood represented the cleansing waters of baptism and life-giving blood of the last supper.

One thing is certain. Jesus did die of a broken heart. From his wound flowed the cleansing and healing water and the life-giving, life-transforming blood. From the heart of love flowed forgiveness, healing and new life! Out of his broken heart came healing of our brokenness. Take a little time to meditate on this today.

“It is from there (contemplating the pierced side of Christ) that our definition of love must begin. In this contemplation the Christian discovers the path along which his life and love must move.” (Deus Caritas Est, Pope Benedict VI)

Saint of the Day, June 7 -) St. Willibald and 11 other saints are remembered this day

Willibald was born in Wessex on October 21, 700. His mother, Saint Wuna of Wessex, was reportedly a sister of Saint Boniface. His father, Saint Richard the Pilgrim, was a chieftain of Wessex. At the age of three, Willibald suffered from a violent illness. His parents prayed to God, vowing to commit Willibald to a monastic life if he was to be spared. Willibald survived and at the age of five entered the Benedictine monastery at Waldheim and was educated by Abbot Egwald. At the monastery he became accustomed to the Irish and Anglo-Saxon monastic ideal of peregrinatio religiosa, or pious rootlessness.

Willibald went on a pilgrimage to Rome with his father, who died on the way at Lucca, Italy. He continued on to Rome and then to Jerusalem. Captured by Saracens who thought him to be a spy, he was eventually released and continued on to all of the holy places and then to Constantinople, where he visited numerous monasteries and hermitages. Upon his return to Italy, he went to Monte Cassino where he stayed for ten years, serving as sacristan, dean, and porter. While on a visit to Rome, he met Pope St. Gregory III, who sent him to Germany to assist his cousin St. Boniface in his important missionary endeavors. Boniface ordained him a priest in 741 and soon appointed him bishop of Eichstatt, in Franconia. With his brother Winebald, he founded a double monastery at Heidenheim, naming Winebald abbot and his sister Walburga abbess. Willibald served as bishop for some four decades. He died of natural causes on July 7, 781 and was canonized by Pope Leo VII in 938

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