MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Today, the fourth Thursday of November is Thanksgiving Day in U.S.A.
We wish all visitors to our website in USA a very happy and joyful day.
May God bless you and your families with grateful hearts,
joyful sharing and the spirit of hopefulness!
May this day be a day of blessing and grace for you and for all!

Eating, drinking, good conversation, hospitality and being together creates a home out of a house.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9

The author describes the fall of the great city of Babylon with all its evil forces and being thrown into the depth of the sea not to be found again. Then he describes the joy of the great multitude in heaven singing "Alleluia, Salvation and Glory" at the feast of the lamb. Mighty kingdoms will fall, but God's kingdom will stand and His people will rejoice.

Psalm 100

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
Come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.

Luke 21:20-28

They admired the beauty and glory of their temple - gazed at it with amazement! They thought they were privileged to be in the presence of a beautiful and enduring reality, the construction of which took over 80 years. Besides its obvious beauty, the fact that

the temple was revered as God's dwelling place on earth made it a permanent structure in Jewish life and spirituality. So, they were shocked at the prediction Jesus made! Even angry! When Luke wrote his Gospel, the prediction of Jesus had come true! The temple was gone! Titus and his troops had conquered Jerusalem and leveled the temple in 70 C.E.

But God had not gone from there, nor was he gone from the hearts of the believers! The harsh realities that Jesus predicted did come true and believers faced them with courage.
Jesus encouraged the disciples to accept these hardships as opportunities to bear witness to him and to the good news of salvation. He says: "stand up straight and raise your heads for your ransom is near at hand" - remember his teachings, trust his word and not give over to apocalyptic anxiety. He encourages us not to worry about fearful omens and not give in to the dread of suffering that could come as a result of following him.

Our faith today is being tested. We need to stand our ground - be deeply rooted in our faith tradition. Our faith must be true, our witness must be authentic and continuous, our hope must be our strength, our love must be forgiving and gracious and benevolent…….

Saint of the Day, November 26 - St. Columban and 14 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Columban, (Columbanus in Latin) was born around 540 in Leinster, Ireland. He was well-educated in the areas of grammar, rhetoric, geometry, and the Holy Scriptures. He was one of the greatest missionaries of the Celtic church, who initiated a revival of spirituality on the European continent. Educated in the monastery of Bangor, County Down, Columban left Ireland for Europe around 590 with 12 monks. They won wide respect for the rigor of their discipline, their preaching, and their commitment to charity and religious life in a time characterized by clerical laxity and civil strife. Columban established several monasteries in Europe which became centers of religion and culture.

Columban became unpopular because of his attacks on the degeneracy in the Burgundian court and among local clergy. He reproved the king for his licentious life, insisting that he should get married. Since this threatened the power of the queen mother, Columban was deported back to Ireland. His ship ran aground in a storm, and he continued his work in Europe, ultimately arriving in Italy, where he found favor with the king of the Lombards. In his last years he established the famous monastery of Bobbio, where he died in 615. His writings include a treatise on penance and against Arianism, sermons, poetry, and his monastic rule.

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