

MORNING MEDITATIONS

Monday, Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

From serenity comes gentleness and gentleness nurtures serenity.

Isaiah 1:10-17

Isaiah challenges his people to change their ways. He tells them that sacrifices are worthless without proper inner dispositions. It is not enough to wash hands...must “wash yourselves clean...put away misdeeds...cease doing evil...learn to do good.... learn to be just in your ways...”

Psalm 50

**Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you,
For your burnt offerings are before me always.
I take from your house no bullock,
No goats out of your fold.**

Mathew 10:34 – 11:1

Jesus talks about the cost of discipleship with startling honesty. Being a disciple could mean division, separation even from loved ones because loyalty to Christ has to take precedence over the dearest loyalties of this world. To choose Christ could mean denial of other things and other loyalties!

The disciple must be ready to take up the cross, to be regarded as a criminal and to die – no glory, no fame, no name, no wealth.....no pretenses!

Be prepared to welcome and accept the pain and the loss that come with being faithful to your call.....

The disciple is called to invest his life into the master’s way of living and not hang on to it. Invest all of life into loving and caring and serving and giving.....to total giving. To help, even in small ways, is to gather wealth into the eternal. Life is worth investing, worth the sacrifice. Nothing can be given in exchange for life!

Give life and love all you haveInvest yourself into loving God and God’s people!

Give graciously and generously!

Saint of the day, July 13 - St. Henry and 13 other saints are remembered this day

St. Henry was born in 972 to Duke Henry of Bavaria and Princess Gisela of Burgundy. During his youth, Henry received both an education and spiritual guidance from bishop Wolfgang of Regensburg who was, eventually, canonized a saint. Henry took on his father's position as Duke of Bavaria in 995, one year after St. Wolfgang's death. The Church supported his accession to the throne as King of Germany in 1002. As king, Henry encouraged the German bishops to reform the practices of the Church in accordance with canon law.

In 1014, the German king journeyed to Rome where Pope Benedict VIII formally crowned him as head of the Holy Roman Empire. The emperor demonstrated his loyalty to the Pope by confirming Benedict VIII's authority over the city of Rome. Henry made his journey from Rome back to Germany into a pilgrimage of sorts, stopping at various monasteries along the way.

Henry became a great patron of churches and monasteries, donating so much of his wealth to them that his relatives complained that he was behaving irresponsibly. He was also a great patron of the poor, making enormous contributions for their relief.

The emperor's extraordinary generosity was made possible in part by his lack of an heir. He was married to a woman who was later canonized as a saint, St. Cunigunde of Luxembourg, but the two had no children.

For the last several years of his life, Henry had to deal with serious illness, and an additional ailment that crippled his left leg, along with his imperial responsibilities. He found support in prayer during these trials and seriously considered resigning his imperial leadership in order to become a monk. After several years of illness, St. Henry II died in July of 1024. Pope Eugene III canonized him in 1146.

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