

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**One of the finest and greatest things that you can nurture is
stillness of the soul and serenity of the spirit.**

Galatians 1:13-24

The Galatians readily accepted Paul and his teaching. But they also readily listened to other preachers who told them to follow the Law of Moses. Paul refuted those preachers and referred to his credentials as an apostle who has seen the Lord. The Gospel proclaimed is not “mere human invention”, but a gift from the Lord. Paul taught the Galatians to trust sound teaching and healthy traditions.

Psalm 139

**O Lord, you have probed me and you know me;
You know when I sit and when I stand,
You understand my thoughts from afar.....**

Luke 10:38-42

Martha had lots to do. There were no cans to open, no frozen foods, no freezers, no fast-food places to go, no 800 numbers to call.....Martha had lots to do. Guest had come and the guest was her friend, her brother's friend and her sister's friend and a Rabbi, a Prophet and much more. Martha wished that if Jesus could just get Mary into the kitchen, together they could finish the work and spend time with the guest. But Jesus invited Martha to discern what was necessary.

The way this story has been passed on to modern readers of the Gospel is disappointing. Christians through the ages have misunderstood the whole episode. Many have thought that the struggle was in trying to keep a good balance between contemplative prayer and active ministry and that Jesus was encouraging us to choose the former over the latter.

While every disciple feels the tension of wanting to pray more, while being pulled to respond to the urgent needs, Jesus would never have preferred one over the other (if you know Jesus, that is). In fact, he told us over and over that a good disciple is one who hears the word and then puts it into practice (Lk.8:15; 11:28). We also know, in spite of his busy schedule and the pressures of those who needed him, he withdrew into quiet places to be alone with his Father, to discern his Father's plans, to draw strength and courage and wisdom and to surrender to his Father's will.

As you reflect on your ministerial demands, let the words and example of Jesus and his first women followers inspire you to follow the Spirit's lead.

Saint of the Day, October 6 - St. Bruno and 22 other saints are remembered this day

Bruno was born in Cologne, Germany in 1030 of the prominent Hartenfaust family. He studied at the Cathedral school at Rheims, and on his return to Cologne about 1055, was ordained and became a Canon at St. Cunibert's. He returned to Rheims in 1056 as professor of theology, became head of the school the following year, and remained there until 1074, when he was appointed chancellor of Rheims by its archbishop, Manasses. Bruno was forced to flee Rheims when he and several other priests denounced Manasses in 1076 as unfit for the office of Papal Legate. Bruno later returned to Cologne but went back to Rheims in 1080 when Manasses was deposed, and though the people of Rheims wanted to make Bruno archbishop, he decided to pursue a hermit's life.

Bruno became a hermit and moved on to Grenoble with six companions in 1084. They were assigned a place for their hermitages in a desolate, mountainous, alpine area called La Grande Chartreuse, by the bishop of Grenoble, whose confessor Bruno became. They built an oratory and individual cells, roughly followed the rule of St. Benedict, and thus began the Carthusian Order. They embraced a life of poverty, manual work, prayer, and transcribing manuscripts, though as yet they had no written rule. The fame of the group and their founder spread, and in 1090, Bruno was brought to Rome, against his wishes, by Pope Urban II (whom he had taught at Rheims) as Papal Adviser in the reformation of the clergy. Bruno persuaded Urban to allow him to resume his life as a hermit, declined the Pope's offer of the archbishopric of Reggio, and remained there until his death on October 6, 1101. He wrote several commentaries on the psalms and on St. Paul's epistles. He was never formally canonized because of the Carthusians' aversion to public honors, but Pope Leo X granted the Carthusians permission to celebrate his feast in 1514, and his name was placed on the Roman calendar in 1623.

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