

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Twenty Second Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is the gentle and peaceful balance of heart and mind.

I Corinthians 3:18-23

Paul taught the Corinthians that the Church was the temple of God. He taught them again that comparisons, competitions, and divisions destroy this temple and that the Church's greatest weakness was its divisions. In this excerpt, he describes the root cause of this division in the Church as the worship of worldly wisdom with which the Corinthians assessed the worth of different teachers and preachers. It was this intellectual pride that caused the breakdown. So, Paul says that the wisest thing for a man would be to become humble enough to learn... "let him become a fool that he may become wise".

Psalms 24

**The Lord's is the earth and its fullness.
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus got into the boat belonging to Simon and began to teach.

**Make your 'boat' available, whatever the "boat" may be in your life - OR may be,
"surrender your boat" for proclaiming goodness and truth and love.**

Jesus asked Peter to move his boat a little distance from the shore - move from familiar, shallow, and safe grounds.....Jesus said to Peter, put out into the deep water for a catch.

Try harder, go deeper, take another approach...

Peter said to Jesus, "leave me, Lord, I am a sinful man". Peter recognized his own limitations and incompleteness in the presence of someone so great and wonderful. But then came the call: "come with me...I will make you different". Peter began to experience a transformation of his life in response to the call of Jesus.

Saint of the Day, September 3 - St. Gregory the Great and 203 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Gregory was born into a wealthy noble Roman family with close connections to the church around the year 540. He was born into a period of upheaval in Italy. From 542 the so-called Plague of Justinian swept through the provinces of the empire, including Italy. The plague caused famine, panic, and sometimes rioting. In some parts of the country, over 1/3 of the population was wiped out or destroyed, with heavy spiritual and emotional effects on the people of the Empire.

Like most young men of his position in Roman society, Gregory was well educated, learning grammar, rhetoric, the sciences, literature, and law; he excelled in all these fields.

[He knew Latin authors, natural science, history, mathematics and music and had such a "fluency with imperial law" that he may have trained in it "as a preparation for a career in public life". He became a government official, advancing quickly in rank to become, like his father, Prefect of Rome, the highest civil office in the city, when only thirty-three years old.

On his father's death, Gregory converted his family villa into a monastery dedicated to Andrew the Apostle. Eventually, Pope Pelagius II ordained Gregory a deacon. Gregory was elected Pope by acclamation to succeed Pelagius II in 590, when the latter died of the plague spreading through the city. Gregory bemoaned the burden of office and mourned the loss of the undisturbed life of prayer he had once enjoyed as a monk. When he became pope in 590, among his first acts was writing a series of letters disavowing any ambition to the throne of Peter and praising the contemplative life of the monks.

In his official documents, Gregory was the first to make extensive use of the term "Servant of the Servants of God" (*servus servorum Dei*) as a papal title, thus initiating a practice that was to be followed by most subsequent popes. He made a general revision of the liturgy of the Pre-Tridentine Mass, "removing many things, changing a few, adding some". The mainstream form of Western plainchant, standardized in the late 9th century, was attributed to Pope Gregory and so took the name of Gregorian chant. He died on March 12, 604.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs