

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Fourth Week of Easter

**I believe that a simple and unassuming manner of life is best
for everyone, best for both the body and the mind.**

(Albert Einstein)

Acts 13:26-33

In this excerpt from Acts, we read about Paul speaking to the Jews settled in the cities of the Roman Empire. He spoke in their Synagogue about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and how this was in fulfillment of God's plan.

Psalm 2

**I myself have set up my king,
On Zion, my holy mountain.....
Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice before him;
With trembling pay homage to him.**

John 14:1-6

**“Do not let your hearts be troubled.....there are many dwelling places in my
father's house.....I am the way, the truth and the life.....”**

There is a story of a missionary who was lost in the African jungle. When, finally, he reached a primitive village, he asked one of the villagers to lead him out. After more than an hour of hacking their way through thick jungle growth, the missionary said to his guide: “Are you sure, this is the way? Where is the path? His guide responded, “Sir, in this place there is no path. I am the path.” This story takes us to the words of Christ: “I am the way, the truth and the life”.

**The ultimate meaning of Christ's life, death and resurrection was to
reveal the God who.....**

- makes a way out of no way,
- turns tragedy into triumph,
- creates something new from old,
- generates light in darkness,
- brings victory out of defeat,
- generates hope where there is despair,
- brings good out of evil,
- brings life out of death

Saint of the Day, May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima and 14 other saints are remembered this day.

Beginning in the spring of 1917, three Portuguese children - Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos - received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, Portugal. At that time, Europe was involved in an extremely bloody war. Portugal itself was in political turmoil, having overthrown its monarchy in 1910; the government disbanded religious organizations soon after.

At the first appearance, Mary asked the children to return to that spot on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months. She also asked them to learn to read and write and to pray the rosary "to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." They were to pray for sinners and for the conversion of Russia, which had recently overthrown Czar Nicholas II and was soon to fall under communism. Up to 90,000 people gathered for Mary's final apparition on October 13, 1917. The title Our Lady of Fátima was given to the Virgin Mary as a result, and the Sanctuary of Fátima became a major center of world Christian pilgrimage.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002.

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