

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Wednesday, Sixth Week of Easter**

**Forbearance describes the patience we have with the failings  
and odd ways of others.**

### **Acts 17:15, 22 – 18:1**

In this excerpt from Acts, we read Paul's famous speech at Athens. He told the people of Athens that he knew the God they worshiped without really knowing him. He affirmed their faith in a God and then proceeded to reveal to them the knowledge and experience he had of God in Jesus. His main theme was, "in God we live and move and have our being". Many were baptized after hearing Paul and others wanted to hear him again.

**Reflect: "In God we live and move and have our being."**

### **Psalms 148**

**Praise the lord from the heavens,  
Praise him in the heights;  
Praise him all you his angels,  
Praise him all you his hosts.**

### **John 16:12-15**

Jesus promised the disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes he would guide them to all truth and that he would teach them of things to come. Reflect on the following sayings of Jesus about the Holy Spirit:

Jesus says to the disciples: I will ask the Father and He will send you another helper who will stay with you forever (Jn.14:16). "The helper, the Holy Spirit will teach you everything and make you remember all I have told you (Jn.14:26). The Spirit will give them courage to stand up and witness to him in the face of difficulties (Jn. 15:26-27). The Spirit will lead them into truth (Jn.16:7-8, 13). Jesus breathed on them and said: "receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn. 20:21-22). At Pentecost, the Spirit took "possession" of them (Acts 2:2-3). The Spirit transformed the disciples and Peter, who denied knowing Jesus, and empowered them to go and begin preaching and proclaiming Jesus (Acts 2:15-17).

**Pray that you may experience the Holy Spirit rushing in with gifts that will transform you into "Sons of God". Pray also that you may be gifted with a discerning heart.....**

## **Saint of the Day, May 8 - Saint Gregory Grassi and Companions (120) and 18 other saints are remembered this day.**

Gregory Grassi was born in Italy, on December 13, 1833. At the age of 15, he took the Franciscan habit in the Friary of Montiano, Romagna, with the name Gregory. His solemn profession was made one year later, on 14 December. He was then sent to Bologna to do his seminary studies and was ordained priest on August 17, 1856. Then he was sent to Rome for further training to prepare for his mission to China.

In 1860 Gregory Grassi was assigned to Taiyuan, China, where he was appointed Mission Promoter, Director of the mission orphanage, and choirmaster at the seminary. In 1876 he was chosen as the Coadjutor Vicar Apostolic for the Apostolic Vicariate of Shansi. After he assumed authority over the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Shansi on September 6, 1891, he established a novitiate to provide access to Franciscan life for the Chinese of all four vicariates in Shanxi and a rest home for overworked missionaries.

Christian missionaries have often gotten caught in the crossfire of wars against their own countries. When the governments of Britain, Germany, Russia, and France forced substantial territorial concessions from the Chinese in 1898, anti-foreign sentiment grew very strong among many Chinese people. When the short but bloody Boxer Rebellion broke out in Peking in June 1900 and the Empress Dowager Cixi issued the Imperial Decree of declaration of war against foreign powers, Gregory Grassi was urged to flee, but decided to stay.

At the beginning of July, the Governor of Shanxi, Yuxian, ordered the arrest of the European missionaries in the province. Throughout China during the Boxer Uprising, 5 bishops, 50 priests, 2 brothers, 15 sisters and 40,000 Chinese Christians were killed. Gregory Grassi and companions were among the 120 martyrs canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

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