MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Thirty First Week in Ordinary Time

Learn silence. With the quiet serenity of a meditative mind, listen, absorb, transcribe, and transform. (Pythagoras)

Philippians 3:3-8

Paul insisted that the real circumcision was not a mark in the flesh; it is true worship, true confidence in the Grace of God in Jesus. So it is Christians and not Jews who are truly circumcised. He claimed that he was circumcised in the flesh, was a true Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin, born of Hebrew parents and now a Christian and so he is truly circumcised in all the sense of the term. However, Paul claimed that the only gain for him was his knowledge of Jesus Christ and everything else a loss in light of Christ.

Psalm 105

Sing to him, sing his praise,
Proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
Glossy in his holy name;
Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord!

Luke 15:1-10

Jesus was accused of being in the company of sinners. He told them the parable of the lost sheep. Even one single sheep is precious. The loss of that single sheep is great. The joy of discovering the lost is even greater!

Jesus told them another parable about a woman who diligently searched for a lost coin. The loss of a single coin calls for diligent search because it is precious (not just any coin)! Re-discovery of the lost precious coin calls for great rejoicing! **So will it be with the re-discovery of every person……the heavens rejoice!**

You are not just "another" in tens or hundreds or thousands or millions - you just are! And as you are, you are precious in the eyes of God!

Great is the loss if you are lost because you are not just one in a million! You just are one unique, precious person!

Greater is the joy of your discovery! Even the angels rejoice!

Saint of the Day, November 5 - St. Elizabeth and 15 other saints are remembered this day.

What we know of St. Elizabeth comes from the Gospel of Luke. Elizabeth, a daughter of the line of Aaron, and the wife of Zacharias, was "righteous before God" and was "blameless" but childless. Elizabeth is also a cousin to the Virgin Mary.

Zachariah, desiring a child, went to pray in the temple and was told by the angel Gabriel not to be afraid because the Lord has heard his prayer. The Angel assured him that Elizabeth would bear a son to be named John (Luke 1:13-15). Zachariah was skeptical because both himself and his wife were elderly. For his skepticism, Zachariah was rendered mute until the prophecy had been fulfilled.

Elizabeth became pregnant shortly thereafter and she rejoiced. Gabriel then visited the Virgin Mary at Nazareth, telling her that she would conceive of the Holy Spirit and become the mother of Jesus. Mary then visited Elizabeth, and her baby leapt in her womb for joy (Luke 1:41-45). Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and returned home. Elizabeth gave birth to a son and named him John.

Although Elizabeth's neighbors assumed the child would be named Zachariah, her husband insisted that his name should be John. At the moment Zachariah insisted that his son should be named John, and his speech returned. After this, there is no more mention in the Bible about Elizabeth.

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