

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Fourth Week of Easter

Want to live simply?

Plan a life with less – less desire, less stuff, less clutter, less everything.

Acts 13:13-25

Paul continued his missionary journey. He offered, to different groups of people, a summary of the history of salvation beginning with Abraham leading to the death and resurrection of Jesus. He invited people to accept Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

Psalm 89

**The favors of the Lord I will sing for ever;
Through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said, “My kindness is established for ever:
In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.**

John 13:16-20

Jesus had his last supper with his disciples. Great things happened during this meal. The Gospel reading of today flows from this experience. He had washed the feet of his disciples and called them to follow his example in gracious and self-sacrificing service.

Jesus also wanted the disciples to know that redeeming the world would cost him his life and that he was choosing death and that it was his chosen act of “surrender” to the will of his Father. This Gospel passage also refers to the bitterness of betrayal and the joy of fidelity. Jesus was accepting death in fidelity, in loyalty, in love, in total giving. And one of the disciples was going to betray him who loved and trusted!

Learn to surrender to the will of the Father! Pray for wisdom and courage to accept the cost of self-surrender!

The disciples were commissioned to go out with the master’s message - not with their own agenda, but with the master’s word. They were to speak his word, in his name. They were to stand with him, in him and for him.

Be faithful to the WORD of Jesus!

Saint of the Day, May 12 - Saint Leopold Mandic and 12 other saints are remembered this day.

Leopold was born Bogdan Ivan Mandić on May 12, 1866 in the coastal town of Herceg Novi, today part of Montenegro. He was the twelfth child of Dragica Zarević and Petar Antun Mandić, owner of an Adriatic fishing fleet. He grew up in the orbit of a community of Capuchin friars based in the Province of Venice who had served in his town for two centuries. Physically malformed and delicate, he grew to a height of only 4'5", with a clumsy walk and afflicted by stuttering.

He felt called to the Franciscan way of life, took the habit of Franciscan Capuchins, took the religious name of Leopold of Castelnuovo, and was ordained a priest on September 20, 1890. He could not speak loudly enough to preach publicly. For many years he also suffered from severe arthritis, poor eyesight, and a stomach ailment. For several years Leopold taught Patrology, the study of the Church Fathers, to the clerics of his province, but he is best known for his work in the confessional, where he sometimes spent 13-15 hours a day. Several bishops sought out his spiritual advice.

Leopold's dream was to go to the Orthodox Christians and work for the reunion of Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy. His health never permitted it. Leopold often renewed his vow to go to the Eastern Christians; the cause of unity was constantly in his prayers. Leopold lived most of his life in Padua, died on July 30, 1942, and was canonized in 1982.

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