

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Thursday, Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Forbearance is self-discipline and self-control.**

## **Jeremiah 18:1-6**

Jeremiah uses the image of the clay in the hands of the potter as a way of describing the absolute dependence of Israel on Yahweh. Yahweh has called them, formed them, and continues to form them as his people. Israel must surrender to the ways of Yahweh.

## **Psalms 146**

**Praise the Lord my soul,  
I will praise the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God while I live.**

## **Matthew 13:47-53**

Once again, Jesus used examples from daily work situations to speak about the kingdom and the things of heaven. The kingdom was compared to a net cast into the sea which gathers all kinds of things. The net was drawn to land and the catch was separated – the good was put into containers and the useless material thrown away.

The net thrown into the sea can not discriminate....it draws all kinds of things, its contents will be a mixture... it is the nature of the kingdom on earth...all kinds of people, the good, the bad, the useful, the useless and so on. It describes the nature of the kingdom and the nature of the Church as all inclusive. The Church must remain open to all.

The parable also teaches us that eventually, separation will happen...good will be separated from the bad. Jesus said, "Angels will come" for the separation. Judgments must be left to God and it is not ours to make.

**Cultivate non-judgmental attitude! Reflect on the all-embracing love God.**

**Saint of the Day, August 1 - St. Alphonsus Liguori and 33 other saints are remembered this day.**

Alphonsus Maria de Liguori was born on September 27, 1696 in Marianella near Naples, Italy. His parents provided him with an exceptional education in philosophy, literature, and the arts. At the University of Naples, he received, at the age of 16, a doctorate in both canon and civil law. When he was 18, like many nobles, he joined the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy with whom he cared for the sick at the hospital for "incurables," washing afflicted bodies, feeding the helpless, changing bedclothes and devoting himself to works of mercy and compassion.

Following his father's will he became a lawyer and before he was 20, he was regarded as one of the most gifted lawyers working in the kingdom of Naples. After losing what was the most important court case he had ever taken on, Alphonsus left the legal profession to enter the priesthood, much to the disappointment of his father. He was ordained a priest in 1726 and concentrated his pastoral efforts on parish missions, hearing confessions, forming Christian groups.

He founded the Redemptorist congregation in 1732. It was an association of priests and brothers living a common life, dedicated to the imitation of Christ, and working mainly in popular missions for peasants in rural areas. The congregation was formally approved 17 years later. Alphonsus' great pastoral reforms were in the pulpit and confessional, replacing the pompous oratory of the time with simplicity, and the rigorism of Jansenism with kindness. He fought for the liberation of moral theology from the rigidity of Jansenism. His moral theology, which went through 60 editions in the century following him, concentrated on the practical and concrete problems of pastors and confessors.

He was made bishop at the age of 66 and at once instituted a thorough reform of his diocese. At the age of 71, he was afflicted with rheumatic pains which left incurable bending of his neck. He suffered a final 18 months of "dark night" scruples, fears, temptations against every article of faith and every virtue, interspersed with intervals of light and relief, when ecstasies were frequent. He died August 1, 1787 at Pagani, Italy

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