

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

**Serenity comes from the ability to say “Yes” to all that has been,
all that is and all that will be in Gd’s plan.**

James 1:12-18

James encouraged his readers to stand strong and prove their worth by enduring trials and temptations. He says that we are not free to blame God for our temptations. We must be responsible. “God, who is untouched by evil, tempts no one.” “It is the tug and lure of his own passion that tempts man.” All things that come from God are good and only good comes from God.

Psalm 94

**Happy the man whom you instruct, O Lord,
whom by your law you teach,
giving him rest from evil days.
For the Lord will not cast off his people,
nor abandon his inheritance.....**

Mark 8:14-21

The disciples came to the end of their bread supply – just one loaf left and were anxious. Jesus asked them, “Have you forgotten your experience with me and the loaves.....?”

**Remember and learn from experience! Remember how you have come through
difficult situations in the past! God has been there.....You have come through.... Be
amazed and confident that God, who has brought you thus far, will bring you through
all that is happening and may happen!**

Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod, said Jesus. The disciples felt that the master also must be worried about their bread supply. Jesus said to them: “Don’t you understand? Are your minds completely closed?” The Pharisees had just asked for a sign – some extraordinary event – as a proof of Jesus being the messiah. Herod had built up his happiness on power, influence, prestige, wealth, etc. For the Pharisees and Herod the Kingdom of God was an earthly reality based on earthly power, established by force of might and wealth. This is the “leaven” that the disciples were to be “beware of”.

Beware of the ways of the world – the ways of power, influence, prestige, might,

wealth, etc. Welcome the ways of God's kingdom – the ways of obedience, love, service, self-surrender, sacrifice, etc.

Saint of the Day, February 17 - Founders of the Servite Order and 62 other saints are remembered this day.

In the middle of the 13th century, the city of Florence, Italy, was prosperous and culturally advanced and at the same time torn with political strife as well as the heresy of the Cathari, who believed that physical reality was inherently evil. Morals were low and religion seemed meaningless. In 1240, Seven wealthy, well-known cloth merchants who lived in Florence at this time, Bonfilius, Monaldi, John Bonagiunta, Gerard Sostegni, Bartholomew Amidei, Benedict dell'Antella, Ricoverus Uguccione, and Alexis Falconier, decided to withdraw from the city to a solitary place for prayer and direct service of God. But they soon found themselves disturbed by constant visitors from Florence. They next withdrew to the deserted slopes of Monte Senario.

In 1244, under the direction of Saint Peter of Verona, O.P., this small group adopted a religious habit similar to the Dominican habit, choosing to live under the Rule of St. Augustine and adopting the name of the Servants of Mary. The new Order took a form more like that of the mendicant friars than that of the older monastic Orders.

Members of the community came to the United States from Austria in 1852 and settled in New York and later in Philadelphia. The two American provinces developed from the foundation made by Father Austin Morini in 1870 in Wisconsin.

Community members combined monastic life and active ministry. In the monastery, they led a life of prayer, work and silence while in the active apostolate they engaged in pastoral ministry, teaching, preaching, and other ministries.

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