

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Twenty Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Forbearance is a gift of God that we must accept and nurture.

Job 19:21-27

After a series of painful searches, doubts and questions and having lived through great suffering, Job comes to realize that everything is in the hands of God. He finally, surrenders and expresses his deep desire to see his God: “my inmost being is consumed with longing”.

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

Luke 10:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples, “Look, there is a rich harvest.....” Jesus looked at a crowd and saw a rich harvest while the Pharisees looked at the same people and found only sinful, unfaithful people worthy of judgment and condemnation. Jesus found people to be gathered, to be brought in and not shut out.....

The disciples of Jesus are called to maintain a positive attitude toward the world around them and gather people in rather than alienate them.....

The disciples were given a God-directed mission and not a self-fulfilling, self-directed mission. There was an urgency about fulfilling this mission because the mission was the proclamation of the presence of the Kingdom of God – it was about the rich harvest waiting to be gathered in and not about some future reality.

So Disciples of Jesus were called to live a simple life, travel light and not be burdened with stuff that weighs them down.....

Disciples of Jesus are called to be bearers of good news, of peace, of God's forgiving love, of God's healing presence.....and never to become a burden to others.....

Saint of the day, October 3 - Saint Theodora Guérin and 14 other saints are remembered this day

Anne-Thérèse Guérin was born on October 2, 1798, in the village of Étables-sur-Mer in Brittany, France, near the end of the French Revolution, which led to the Reign of Terror and the establishment of the French First Republic. This period of significant change also caused a crisis within French Catholicism, when schools and churches were closed, and many Catholic priests chose exile over death from the guillotine.

When she was fifteen, tragedy struck the family. Bandits robbed and killed her father as he was traveling home to visit his family. The grief proved to be too much for Isabelle Guérin, who already had lost two children, and she fell into a deep depression. The teenaged Anne-Thérèse accepted the responsibility of caring for her mother and sister, as well as the family's home and garden. Around the age of twenty, she asked for her mother's blessing to join a religious order, but Isabelle was still unable to cope with her loss and refused. Five years later Isabelle recognized the depth of Anne-Thérèse's devotion to God and permitted her to leave home to join a convent. She entered the Sisters of Providence in 1823, taking the name Sister Saint Theodore. An illness during novitiate left her with lifelong fragile health, but that did not keep her from becoming an accomplished teacher.

At the invitation of the bishop of Vincennes, Indiana, Sr. Saint Theodore and five sisters were sent to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, in 1840, to teach and to care for the sick poor. She was to establish a motherhouse and novitiate. Only later did she learn that her French superiors had already decided the sisters in the United States should form a new religious congregation under her leadership.

Mother Theodore and her community persevered despite fires, crop failures, prejudice against Catholic women religious, misunderstandings, and separation from their original religious congregation. She once told her sisters, "Have confidence in the Providence that so far has never failed us. The way is not yet clear. Grope along slowly. Do not press matters; be patient, be trustful." Another time she asked, "With Jesus, what shall we have to fear?"

Mother Theodora died on May 14, 1856 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, U.S.A. and was buried in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, now the Shrine of St. Mother Theodore, in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. She was canonized as Saint Theodora Guérin eight years later by Pope Benedict XVI on October 15, 2006.

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