

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Fifth Week of Easter

**Want to live simply?
Slowly remove things until you're left only with what is necessary!**

Acts 16:1-10

Paul made a long missionary journey with great success. He took Timothy along as a companion. Paul has a special gift of welcoming good men from the community to accompany him on his missionary journey. He was a good pastor, recognizing and affirming the goodness and generosity of faithful people in the community and calling them to share their gifts with others.

The Church continued to grow and become stronger in faith in spite of many hardships. Paul continued to discern and respond to the movement of the Holy Spirit and proclaimed the good news in many new towns and territories.

Psalm 100

**Sing joyfully to the Lord all you lands;
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before him with joyful song.**

John 15:18-21

Jesus warned his disciples that they can not conform to the world's standards and they would be hated for not conforming to the ways of the world. He told them that they did not belong to the world and that the world would not recognize them because they live a different standard and have a different life-style.....

The price of non-conformity is alienation. Christians throughout the centuries have experienced alienation from the world in many different ways. In fact, any one, who chooses a different life-style from that of the world, at any particular time, is disliked, alienated, even hated and persecuted for it. Socrates was killed just because he challenged men to think and reason and come to certain logical conclusions for themselves.

It is dangerous to be different. The disciples of Jesus must choose to be different, think different, see different, live different and even die different. This is the challenge that Jesus offered his disciples.

Saint of the Day, May 21 - St. Eugene de Mazenod and 30 other saints are remembered this day.

Eugene de Mazenod was born on August 1, 1782 in Aix-en-Provence, France. Because of the French revolution, the family was forced to flee to Italy. In spite of the upheaval of the French Revolution, he entered the seminary, and was ordained a priest at Amiens in 1811. Soon after his ordination, he organized missionaries to go to rural parts of Provence, instructing the people whose religious training had been disrupted for many years by the French Revolution and its aftermath. Eugene directed his ministry toward the poorest of the poor. Others joined his labors, and became the nucleus of a religious community, the Missionaries of Provence.

Eugene began the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1816, obtaining papal approval for them 10 years later. From rural preaching, they soon moved into running seminaries to improve the quality of the clergy. Their first foreign mission was in Canada in 1841; soon they were in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America.

Eugene became Bishop of Marseille, following his uncle. There he built churches, founded parishes, cared for his priests, and developed catechetics for the young. After a life dedicated to spreading the Good News, Eugene died on May 21, 1861 and was canonized in 1998.

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