

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Fifth Week of Easter

Want to simplify your life? Put first things first!

Acts 14:5-18

Paul healed a crippled man at Lystra. The people, including their priests, came to honor Paul and Barnabas with garlands and oxen to offer them sacrifice. Paul explained to them that they were only men and that the healing was done through the power of Jesus.

May all you do give honor and glory to God!

Psalm 115

Not to us, O Lord, not to us

But to your name give glory

Because of your kindness, because of your truth.....

May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth.....

John 14:21-26

There is much about love in this Gospel passage – Jesus and the Father, the disciples and Jesus, the disciples and other disciples – all in one communion of love and fellowship.

Obedience is presented as the only sign of Love – faithfulness to the word of Jesus is faithfulness, obedience to the word of the Father.

Keep listening and be obedient to the word of Jesus. The word of Jesus is the word of the Father and it is the word of love.

This faithfulness to the word deepens the relationship of love and it facilitates further revelation. Fidelity not only maintains relationship, but also deepens it. Jesus promised that those who are faithful will experience the indwelling of God, that he and the father will make a dwelling place within. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, he said, would teach us all things and help us understand the teachings of Jesus

Fidelity, Obedience and loyalty are not values lived out in monasteries and religious houses. They are lived out where we are - where we live and work - where God has placed us. God is faithful where God is. We are called to be faithful where we are.

Saint of the day, May 16 - Saint Simon Stock and 19 other saints are remembered this day

Simon Stock was born and raised in England. Although little is known about his early life, legend has it that the name Stock, meaning "tree trunk," derives from the fact that, beginning at age twelve, he lived as a hermit in a hollow tree trunk of an oak tree in complete solitude and continual prayer. He had visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary who urged him to carry on in his life of sacrifice and love. During one vision, she told him that there would be Carmelite hermits coming to England from the Holy Land and that he should join them, and Simon joined them in 1212. In 1254 he was elected Superior-General of his Order at London.

The Carmelites themselves were struggling to become established in England, but through fervent prayer to Our Lady, the order persevered, and the Carmelites spread throughout England and southern and western Europe under Simon's leadership. In 1251, in a vision, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Simon holding the brown scapular in one hand. Her words were: "Receive, my beloved son, this scapular of thy Order; it is the special sign of my favor, which I have obtained for thee and for thy children of Mount Carmel. He who dies clothed with this habit shall be preserved from eternal fire. It is the badge of salvation, a shield in time of danger, and a pledge of special peace and protection." Through Saint Simon Stock, devotion to the scapular spread throughout the world. He lived an ascetic life, followed a diet of herbs, roots and wild apples and drank only water. He died on May 16, 1265 in Bordeaux, France.

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