

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Second Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is the quiet confidence that comes from within.

1 Samuel 15:16-23

Samuel said to Saul, “obedience is better than sacrifice”. Sacrifice without obedience, without self-surrender has no value. Samuel challenged Saul to remain faithful to God and God’s ways rather than rely on holocausts and sacrifices.

Psalm 50

**Not for your sacrifice do I rebuke you,
for your holocausts are before me always.
I take from your house no bullock,
no goats out of your fold.**

Mark 2:18-22

Jesus and his disciples deviated from traditional practices. They neither fasted nor prayed like the Pharisees and the disciples of John. So, they questioned Jesus about why he and his disciples do not follow the traditional spiritual practices.

Jesus came proclaiming the “reign of God” and God’s reign is a joyful celebration of life. The message of Jesus is a message of Hope and of joy. The characteristic Christian attitude toward life is “JOY”. Share your joy with someone today.

Jesus knew that he was coming with a radically different message and that his way of life was different from that of the orthodox rabbinic teacher. He also knew how difficult it was for people to accept new truth and change their attitudes. So, he called his listeners to a flexible and open mind.

Be open! Be flexible! Be docile! Be permeable!

No one sews a patch of un-shrunk cloth on an old cloak. No man pours new wine into old wineskins. New wine is poured into new skins.

The day of “patching” is over, re-creation must begin! There are times when break with the past and new beginnings become necessary.

Saint of the Day, January 19 – St. Fabian and 26 other saints are remembered this day

We do not have much information about the early days of St. Fabian. What we know is that Fabian was a noble Roman by birth, and his father's name was Fabius. A legend, preserved by the fourth-century writer Eusebius of Caesarea, tells us of the circumstances of his election as Pope. Fabian had come into the city from his farm one day as clergy and people were preparing to elect a new pope. While the names of several illustrious and noble churchmen were being considered over the course of thirteen days, a dove suddenly descended upon the head of Fabian. This sign united the votes of clergy and laity, and Fabian was chosen unanimously to be the bishop of Rome, the Pope.

According to sixth-century historians, Fabian sent seven bishops from Rome to Gaul to preach the Gospel. He divided the Christian communities of Rome into seven districts, each supervised by a deacon. He appointed seven sub-deacons to help collect the *acta* of the martyrs—the reports of the court proceedings on the occasion of their trials.

There is also a tradition that he instituted the four minor clerical orders: porter, lector, exorcist, and acolyte. However, most scholars believe these offices evolved gradually and were formally instituted at a later date. He led the Church for 14 years and died a martyr's death during the persecution of Decius in 250 C.E.

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