

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Sixth Week of Easter

**Steadfast Love is real love. And “Real love is to love them that hate you,
Do not seek to have everything that happens happen as you wish but wish for
everything to happen as it actually does happen, and your life will be serene.
(Epictetus)**

Acts 18:9-18

Paul continued to encounter many difficulties, oppositions and persecutions. He was brought to trial, but the judge saw it as a political trial and discontinued hearing. The Lord continued to bless him on his journey with many who supported him and gifted him with courage to proclaim the good news.

Be faithful to your calling even in times of trials!

Psalm 47

**All you peoples, clap your hands,
Shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the Lord, the most high, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth.**

John 16:20-23

In this Gospel passage Jesus describes the experience of the disciples at his leaving them in terms of childbirth. The process requires time and patient endurance, but the result will be the joy that will never be taken away. The joy the world gives is at the mercy of the world. The joy Christ gives is independent of anything the world can offer. The joy which Christ gives is complete, enduring, pure, unmixed, and perfect. The world's joy is incomplete, wears out and passes away.

In Christian joy, the pain which went before is forgotten. If a person's fidelity costs much, he/she will forget the cost in lasting joy. There will be fullness of knowledge. Jesus says, "you will not need to ask any more questions". There are always unanswered questions, unsolved problems, and an uncertain future. But there is fullness of knowledge in Christ. In Christ you come to know yourself fully, you come to know humanity in its fullness, and you come to know God as God is. Our knowledge is fragmented.

In Christ fragmented knowledge finds unity and integrity and wholeness.

In Christ we have a new relationship with God because we know God as God is, we know the

heart of God, we know the heart of Love. In this relationship, Jesus says, we may ask anything and are sure to get it. Our knowledge is complete, and our joy is full and pure and indestructible.

Saint of the Day, May 15 - St. Isidore the Farmer and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Isidore was born into a poor but very devout family in Madrid around the year 1070. He was named Isidore from the name of their patron, St. Isidore of Seville. When he was barely old enough to wield a hoe, Isidore entered the service of John de Vergas, a wealthy landowner from Madrid, and worked faithfully on his estate outside the city for the rest of his life.

He married a young woman as simple and upright as himself who also became a saint—Maria de la Cabeza. They had one son, who died as a child. Isidore had deep religious feelings and habits. He rose early in the morning to go to church and spent many a holiday devoutly visiting the churches of Madrid and surrounding areas. All day long, as he walked behind the plow, he communed with God. His devotion, one might say, became a problem, for his fellow workers sometimes complained that he often showed up late because of lingering in church too long.

He was known for his love of the poor and shared what he had, even his meals, with the poor. There are accounts of Isidore's supplying them miraculously with food. He had a great concern for the proper treatment of animals as well. He died on May 15, 1130 and was canonized a saint on March 12, 1622 with Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila and Philip Neri. Together, the group is known in Spain as "the five saints." Isidore has become the patron of farmers and rural communities. He is the patron of Madrid, Spain, and of the United States National Rural Life Conference.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs