

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Paul advises us as he did the Corinthians, “Be steadfast, persevering, my beloved brothers, fully engaged in the work of the Lord.”

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Jeremiah 26:1-9

Once again, the Lord asked Jeremiah to call his people to repent and return to the observance of God’s law. When Jeremiah finished speaking God’s word, the priests, prophets and all the people turned against him and said: “you must be put to death”.

Psalm 69

**I pray to you, O Lord,
for the time of your favor, O God!
In your great kindness answer me,
with your constant help.**

Mathew 13:54-58

They admired his eloquence but rejected his message. And what they rejected was “GOOD NEWS” - liberty to captives, sight to the blind - a year of Grace.

They failed to look beyond. Hence, they saw only a local carpenter.

Lord, help me to look beyond what I see. Give me a clearer and deeper vision of your presence in all that I encounter on my journey of life.

Prejudice blinds the mind and narrows the heart.

Lord, give me the wisdom to recognize and accept my own prejudices and the courage to overcome them.

To his own people he came. But they did not accept him.

Lord help me to be more sensitive, understanding and accepting of the goodness of all I encounter.

Jesus went about doing good and teaching and proclaiming good news in the neighboring villages.

Lord, empower me with your Holy spirit, that I may proclaim your good news.....

Saint of the day, August 2 - St. Eusebius of Vercelli and 10 other saints are remembered this day

Eusebius was born in Sardinia, around March 2, 283. After his father's martyrdom, he was taken to Rome by his mother. He became the first bishop in Vercelli in northern Italy around the year 340, elected by the local leaders recognizing his piety. He founded a priestly community in Vercelli that resembled a monastic community. He was the first bishop to live in common with the clergy, devoting his best energies to form them in piety and zeal.

In 354, He was sent by Pope Liberius to persuade the emperor to call a council to settle Catholic-Arian troubles. When it was called at Milan, Eusebius went reluctantly, sensing that the Arian block would have its way, although the Catholics were more numerous. He refused to go along with the condemnation of Saint Athanasius; instead, he laid the Nicene Creed on the table and insisted that all sign it before taking up any other matter. The emperor put pressure on him, but Eusebius insisted on Athanasius' innocence and reminded the emperor that secular force should not be used to influence Church decisions. At first the emperor threatened to kill him, but later sent him into exile in Palestine. There the Arians dragged him through the streets and shut him up in a little room, releasing him only after his four-day hunger strike. They resumed their harassment shortly after.

His exile continued in Asia Minor and Egypt, until the new emperor permitted him to be welcomed back to his see in Vercelli. Eusebius attended the Council of Alexandria with Athanasius and approved the leniency shown to bishops who had wavered. Once back in Vercelli in 363, he continued to be a leader with Hilary of Poitiers in defeating Arianism in the Western Church and was one of the chief opponents of the Arian bishop Auxentius of Milan. Eusebius died peacefully in 370 or 371 in his own diocese at an advanced age.

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