

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Friday, Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Each of us should take care to behave always in the spirit of simplicity,  
remembering that God likes to deal with the simple.**

**(St. Vincent de Paul)**

### **Revelation 20:1-4, 11 – 21:2**

In this vision, John sees the ancient dragon being chained and hurled into the abyss which is then closed and sealed. He saw the reign of Christ following the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment. He saw new heavens and the new earth. The communion and the celebration of the saints have begun.

**Be confident. Be awake and alert and prepared! The Lord is breaking into your personal history!**

### **Psalm 84**

**My soul yearns and pines  
for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my flesh  
cry out for the living God.**

### **Luke 21:29-33**

Jesus had talked about the “Day of the Lord” and the terrible events that surround that day. He talked about what he himself had to face and what his disciples eventually would face. Hearing all this, the disciples wanted to know what they should do and what signs they should be looking for.

Jesus used familiar imageries of sun, moon, stars, gathering of clouds, budding fig tree, etc. to describe the reality of God breaking into history. Jesus encouraged them to recognize the coming of God in all happenings and not look for God in extra-ordinary events.

**Be alert, stay awake and continue to fulfill the mission of Jesus in whatever situation you may be.....recognize the presence and movement of God in all you do!**

**Saint of the Day, November 25 - St. Catherine of Alexandria and 6 other saints are remembered this day**

Saint Catherine of Alexandria, or Saint Katharine of Alexandria, also known as Saint Catherine of the Wheel and The Great Martyr Saint Catherine, is, according to tradition, was martyred in the early 4th century at the hands of the pagan emperor Maxentius. According to her hagiography, she was both a princess and a noted scholar, who became a Christian around the age of 14, converted hundreds of people to Christianity, and was martyred around the age of 18. More than 1,100 years after Catherine's martyrdom, Joan of Arc identified her as one of the saints who appeared to and counselled her.

The Eastern Orthodox Church venerates her as a Great Martyr and celebrates her feast day on November 24 or 25, depending on the regional tradition. In Catholicism she is traditionally revered as one of **the Fourteen Holy Helpers**\*\*\*. In 1969 the Roman Catholic Church removed her feast day from the General Roman Calendar; however, she continued to be commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on 25 November. In 2002, her feast was restored to the General Roman Calendar as an optional memorial.

\*\*\***Fourteen Holy Helpers.** Saints Acacius, Barbara, Blaise, Christopher, Cyriacus, Catherine of Alexandria, Denis, Erasmus of Formiae, Eustace, George, Giles, Margaret of Antioch, Pantaleon, and Vitus. The Fourteen Holy Helpers are a group of saints venerated together in Roman Catholicism because their intercession is believed to be particularly effective, especially against various diseases.

In the middle of the 14th century, the plague - also called "The Black Death" - also called "The Greatest Catastrophe Ever" - ravaged Europe, killing 50 million people, or about 60% of the population (a vastly higher death rate than coronavirus), within a few years. Lacking the advances of modern medicine, and layering dead bodies in pits like "lasagne with layers of pasta and cheese," the people had no choice but to cling to their faith. It was at this time that the Fourteen Holy Helpers - Catholic saints, all but one of whom were early martyrs - came to be invoked by Catholics against the plague and other misfortunes.

According to the New Liturgical Movement, devotion to these 14 saints started in Germany at the time of the plague, and they were called "Nothelfer," which in German means "helpers in need." As bouts of the plague resurfaced over the decades, devotion to the Holy Helpers spread to other countries, and eventually Nicholas V declared that devotion to the saints came with special indulgences.

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