

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Twenty Third Week in Ordinary Time

Be patient - hard trials will not hurt you. In suffering hardships and in patience, take the Prophets as models”

(James 5:7-11).

1 Corinthians 5:1-8

Paul speaks of Christ as a mystery within, a powerful force within, the force that transforms you. Just as a little yeast has its effect all through the dough, the Spirit within transforms the whole being. In this excerpt, Paul says, “Get rid of the old yeast to make yourselves fresh dough, unleavened loaves.... celebrate with unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”.

Search your hearts and discover the treasure, the gift of the Holy Spirit within and let it transform you!

Psalm 5

**The Lord is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his works.
The Lord is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.**

Luke 6:6-11

There was a man with a withered hand. He was prepared to attempt the impossible. Jesus said: “Stretch out your hand” and he did without arguments or doubt.

The difference between difficult and impossible is that the difficult is outside and the impossible is inside....it is an attitude, a disposition of mind and heart. Change your attitude and attempt the impossible! With God all things are possible!

One of the apocryphal Gospels tells us that this man was a stone mason and he asked Jesus healing for his hand so that he could work. He was a man who wanted to work. It is this attitude that made it possible for him to attempt the impossible. **Do you want to be well? Then, with confidence in the power of God within you, attempt what seems impossible!**

Jesus was prepared to take the risk of taking the displeasure and even the anger of the Pharisees to do good for others. The Pharisees loved the prescriptions of their religion

more than the God of their religion. Their religion, in effect, had become their God.

Be watchful! Values get reversed. God first. Religion is at the service of God. Religion is a vehicle - not the destination!

Saint of the Day, September 9 - St. Peter Claver and 14 other saints are remembered this day

Peter Claver was born on June 26, 1580 into a devoutly Catholic and prosperous farming family in the Catalan village of Verdú in Spain. He was born 70 years after King Ferdinand of Spain set the colonial slavery culture into motion by authorizing the purchase of 250 African slaves in Lisbon for his territories in New Spain. Peter was distressed by the number of captive African slaves brought in to port each month and the cruelty they suffered. At early age, he wrote these words in the notebook he kept throughout his life: "I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death, on the understanding that I am like a slave."

After his ordination in 1616 and for the next 38 years, he dedicated himself to the service of the slaves Cartagena, which began in the cargo hold of the slave boat after it docked. Peter Claver showed them abundant kindness, offered them nourishment, and cared for the sick and dying. He followed them to the plantation or other sites where they were sent and became their advocate for humane treatment by their masters. With the help of other Africans as interpreters, he was able to bring Jesus to them and prepare them for the sacraments. As time passed, Father Claver became a moral force for all the people of Cartagena. He preached in the city square and gave missions to sailors and traders. The people named him "Apostle of Cartagena." Father Claver died on September 8, 1654 after four years of serious illness. During his life's work, he baptized three hundred thousand black African slaves. Pope Leo XIII canonized Saint Peter Claver on January 15, 1888.

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