

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Monday, Fifth Week of Easter**

**A person achieves fulfillment only through purposeful engagements  
and by dedicated service.**

## **Acts 14:5-18**

Paul healed a crippled man at Lystra. The people, including their priests, came to honor Paul and Barnabas with garlands and oxen to offer them sacrifice. Paul explained to them that they were only men and that the healing was done through the power of Jesus.

**May all you do give honor and glory to God!**

## **Psalm 115**

**Not to us, O Lord, not to us**

**But to your name give glory**

**Because of your kindness, because of your truth.....**

**May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth.....**

## **John 14:21-26**

There is much about love in this Gospel passage – Jesus and the Father, the disciples and Jesus, the disciples and other disciples – all in one communion of love and fellowship.

Obedience is presented as the only sign of Love – faithfulness to the word of Jesus is faithfulness, obedience to the word of the Father.

**Keep listening and be obedient to the word of Jesus. The word of Jesus is the word of the Father and it is the word of love.**

This faithfulness to the word deepens the relationship of love and it facilitates further revelation. Fidelity not only maintains relationship, but also deepens it. Jesus promised that those who are faithful will experience the indwelling of God, that he and the father will make a dwelling place within. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, he said, would teach us all things and help us understand the teachings of Jesus

**Fidelity, Obedience and loyalty are not values lived out in monasteries and religious houses. They are lived out where we are - where we live and work - where God has placed us. God is faithful where God is. We are called to be faithful where we are.**

## **Saint of the day, May 19 - St. Celestine and 17 other saints are remembered this day**

According to tradition, Pietro di Morrone was born in 1215 in the town of Sant'Angelo Limosano, in the Kingdom of Sicilia (Sicily). After his father's death he began working in the fields. He became a Benedictine monk at Faifoli in the Diocese of Benevento when he was 17. He showed an extraordinary disposition toward asceticism and solitude, and in 1239 retired to a solitary cavern on the mountain Morrone, hence his name (Peter of Morrone). Five years later he left this retreat, and went with two companions to a similar cave on the even more remote Mountain of Maiella in the Abruzzi region of central Italy, where he lived as strictly as possible according to the example of John the Baptist.

In 1244 he founded the order, which was eventually named after him, the Celestines (the name he took when he became Pope). A new religious community was formed, and Pietro gave them a rule formulated in accordance with his own practices which was eventually approved by Pope Gregory X, making it a branch of the Benedictines and following the rule of Saint Benedict, but adding to it additional severities and privations.

In July 1294, three eminent dignitaries, accompanied by an immense multitude of monks and laymen, ascended the mountain, and announced that Pietro had been chosen as the new Pope by a unanimous vote of the Sacred College and humbly begged him to accept the honor. Such an event has never happened in the history of the Church. Reluctantly accepting this honor, Pietro took the name of Celestine V.

Pope Celestine made many serious mistakes in five short months. Troubled by the many mistakes and his desire for the ascetic and contemplative life, Celestine began to think of resigning as Pope. This had never happened in the history of the Church. On December 13, 1294, Celestine announced his resignation as Pope and proclaimed that the cardinals were free to proceed to a new election.

Celestine was not allowed to become a hermit once again. The new Pope Boniface VIII imprisoned him in the castle of Fumone near Ferentino in Lazio, attended by two monks of his order, where Pietro died on May 19, 1296.

Celestine is a saint who will always be remembered for the unique manner in which he was elected Pope, for his spectacular incompetence in that office, and for the distinction of being the first pontiff ever to have resigned.

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