

# MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Forbearance is patience under testing and trying circumstances,  
which contributes to building strength of character.**

## **Hosea 8:4-7 & 11-13**

Hosea speaks of Israel's break with their noble traditions. They had appointed their own kings and they had turned to idol worship. They have broken away from Davidic Kingdom and turned away from the law of Yahweh. In this excerpt, we read about Hosea condemning these practices as unacceptable to God and calling Israel to turn to the God of their Fathers.

**Be faithful to your noble traditions...be grounded in your heritage of faith.**

## **Psalms 115**

**Our God is in heaven;  
Whatever he wills, he does.  
Their idols are silver and gold,  
The handiwork of men.....**

## **Matthew 9:32-38**

Jesus healed a mute and the mute began to speak. The people were amazed and said, "nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel". But the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons through the prince of demons. Some people turn to slander, gossip and the like when all else fails and that is what the Pharisees did.

**Be gracious! Accept and affirm the good that you see around you! Be open to the surprises that God sends your way!**

Where the Pharisees saw law breakers, sinners, outcasts and the like, Jesus saw "a rich harvest and the need for laborers to gather in the harvest. Jesus saw people to be welcomed and gathered in...people to be healed and reconciled...."

**Be optimistic! Be positive! See the good in the world around you!**

**Saint of the day, July 9 - St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions and 52 other saints are remembered this day.**

Augustine Zhao Rong and his 119 companions, are the Martyr Saints of China. The 87 Chinese Catholics and 33 Western missionaries, from the mid-17th century to 1930, were martyred because of their ministry and, in some cases, for their refusal to apostatize. Many died in the Boxer Rebellion, in which anti-colonial peasant rebels slaughtered 30,000 Chinese converts to Christianity along with missionaries and other foreigners.

Christianity arrived in China by way of Syria in the 600s. Depending on China's relations with the outside world, Christianity over the centuries was free to grow or was forced to operate secretly. The 120 martyrs in this group died between 1648 and 1930. Eighty-seven of them were born in China, and were children, parents, catechists, or laborers, ranging in age from nine years to 72. This group includes four Chinese diocesan priests. The 33 foreign-born martyrs were mostly priests or women religious, especially from the Order of Preachers, the Paris Foreign Mission Society, the Friars Minor, Society of Jesus, Salesians of Don Bosco and Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Augustine Zhao Rong was a Chinese soldier who accompanied Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse of the Paris Foreign Mission Society to his martyrdom in Beijing. Not long after his baptism, Augustine was ordained as a diocesan priest. He was martyred in 1815. Beatified in groups at various times, these 120 martyrs were canonized together in Rome on October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

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