

MORNING PRAYER

Thursday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Forbearance is the quality of a noble, royal, holy and godly character.

Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9

Hosea speaks of the love God has for his people. God's love is the basis and the source of Israel's redemption. Hosea says God's love can NOT destroy - only give life!

May your love be life-giving!

Psalm 80

**Once again, O Lord of hosts,
Look down from heaven and see:
Take care of this vine
And protect what your tight hand has planed.....**

Mathew 10:7-15

Jesus instructed his disciples to go out and proclaim the presence of God's Kingdom. They were to do everything - all their service, all their ministry - to proclaim the presence of God's Kingdom. The disciples were given a God-directed mission and not a self-fulfilling, self-directed mission. There was urgency about fulfilling this mission because the mission was the proclamation of the presence of the Kingdom of God – it was about the presence of the kingdom and not about some future reality.

So disciples of Jesus were called to live a simple life, travel light and not be burdened with stuff that weighs them down..... They were not sent out to acquire, to collect, to possess - but to give...the gift you have received, give as a gift.

Disciples of Jesus were and still are called to be bearers of good news, of peace, of God's forgiving love, of God's healing presence.....and never to become a burden to others!

They were to stay close to.....be in touch with "worthy" people, good, decent and noble people and reach out to all.

Saint of the day, July 11 - Saint Benedict and 15 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Benedict was born into a noble family in Norcia on March 2, 480. After attending primary schools in Norcia, Benedict went to Rome to broaden his knowledge of literature and law. However, since he was probably disgusted by the dissolute lifestyle of his peers and by Rome's difficult political situation, he retired to Affile with a group of priests.

At Affile, Benedict withdrew from social life and took shelter in a cave in the ruins of Nero's village, near Subiaco, where he began to live as a hermit. Immersed in solitude, his only contact with the outside world was with a monk called Romanus, whose monastery was nearby. He gave Benedict a monk's habit and provided for his spiritual and material needs. Three solitary years followed. Some shepherds befriended Benedict. They began to follow his teachings and the pastoral and apostolic principles of the Benedictine Order took root. Benedict is considered the father of western monasticism.

Benedict moved from a noble family to a hermitage and from the hermitage to a monastery – from an affluent life to the quiet life of the hermitage and from hermitage to life in a community. He taught people a way to use prayer and Christ-like attitudes to overcome their fears and mistrust of each other. He taught his followers, nuns and monks, to live a life of prayer and solitude and to see hospitality as the quality of their community life.

Benedict died on March 21, 547. He foresaw his coming death, informing his close and faraway disciples that the end was near. Six days before dying, he had the grave which he was to share with his deceased sister Saint Scholastica, opened. Then, completely exhausted, he asked to be taken into his oratory where, after taking his last Holy Communion, he died supported by his monks. He was Canonized in 1220 by Pope Honorius III

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs