

CELEBRATE EASTER

Monday, Third Week of Easter

Serenity is the balance of mind, body, and spirit.

Acts 6:8-15

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, without fear and with great courage faced his trial and gave witness to the risen Christ. Stephen was at one with his commitment to the risen Christ and the people saw the reflection of this oneness with Christ on his face, his "face seemed like that of an angel".

Psalm 119

**Remove from me the way of falsehood,
and favor me with your law.
The way of truth I have chosen;
I have set your ordinances before me...**

John 6:22-29

After the miracle of the loaves and the fishes, Jesus, realizing the move to force him to be their king, had withdrawn from the crowd up the mountain. So the crowd went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

Keep looking, searching for Jesus, the Messiah in your life. Never stop looking! Even when you feel you have found him...keep looking and let Jesus become MORE for you!

They met him on the other side of the lake and Jesus began to teach them a new wisdom. He told them that they "should not be working for perishable food" ...but they must begin to work for "food that remains unto life eternal, food which the son of man will give..." They asked him what they had to do...and he told them that they must have faith in the one God, the Father, sent.

God alone can satisfy the hunger of the "soul", the eternal hunger of every person! To satisfy this hunger, we must know Jesus, whom the Father sent. In him we come to know the Father, the Father's truth, the Father's love, the Father's presence in compassion and wisdom. To know him does not mean gathering lots of information about him, but to become one with him, to be intimate, to be in close contact, to be in communion and fellowship, to abide in him...

Saint of the Day, April 20 - St. Conrad of Parzham and 9 other saints are remembered this day.

Conrad was born on December 22, 1818, on the family farm in Bad Griesbach, now a part of the town of Parzham, then in the Kingdom of Bavaria, now part of Germany. Baptized Johann Evangelist, he was the second youngest of 12 children, five of whom died in infancy.

John spent his early years on the family farm. His mother died when he was 14 and his father two years later. After attending a parish mission in 1838, he decided to enter the religious life. The following year, at the age of thirty-one, and after distributing his inheritance, he was admitted, as a lay brother among the Capuchin Franciscan friars. He made his profession in 1852 and was assigned to the friary in Altoetting. Conrad spent most of his life, about 41 years, as porter in Altoetting, Bavaria, letting people into the friary and indirectly encouraging them to let God into their lives.

He had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and each day fervently recited the Rosary. On feast days he frequently made a journey to some remote shrine of the Blessed Mother. During such pilgrimages, always made on foot, he was engaged in prayer, and when he returned in the evening, he was usually still fasting. Conrad spent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. He regularly asked the Blessed Mother to intercede for him and for the many people he included in his prayers. On April 21, 1894, Conrad died in the friary where he had served for 41 years. He was canonized in 1934.

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