

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

**We can be serene even in the midst of calamities
and by our serenity, make others more comfortable and unafraind.**

Isaiah 58:9-14

Isaiah proclaims care for the oppressed, the disadvantaged, the poor and all suffering people as channels of God's blessings and Grace....

Then (when you care for the oppressed, feed the hungry, etc.) God will renew your strength and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails.....God will guide you always and give you plenty even n parched land.....

Psalm 86

**You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in kindness to all who call upon you.
Hearken, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my pleading.**

Luke 5:27-32

Jesus invited Levi (Mathew) to leave his tax collectors post and follow him. Levi responded and gave Jesus a great reception which included the company that Levi kept and the scribes and Pharisees could neither understand nor appreciate it.

Jesus made a bold statement: I have come to call sinners to a change of heart. Jesus saw Mathew the tax collector and all others like him as people who needed forgiveness and healing and Grace and new beginnings.

This is at the heart of the call of Lent – a call to conversion, forgiveness, healing, new life, new beginnings. Lent is the spring time of the Church. It's time to spring to new life and new power and new strength and new hope.....

Mathew celebrated his newfound freedom and joy in Jesus. He shared the truth and the goodness and the love he found with people like himself.

This is also an integral part of the call of Lent. Share the joy you find in Jesus and his forgiving and healing love. Share it with others like yourself.

Saint of the Day, February 21 - Founders of the Servite Order and 62 other saints are remembered this day.

In the middle of the 13th century, the city of Florence, Italy, was prosperous and culturally advanced and at the same time torn with political strife as well as the heresy of the Cathari, who believed that physical reality was inherently evil. Morals were low and religion seemed meaningless. In 1240, Seven wealthy, well-known cloth merchants who lived in Florence at this time, Bonfilius, Monaldi, John Bonagiunta, Gerard Sostegni, Bartholomew Amidei, Benedict dell'Antella, Ricoverus Uggione, and Alexis Falconier, decided to withdraw from the city to a solitary place for prayer and direct service of God. But they soon found themselves disturbed by constant visitors from Florence. They next withdrew to the deserted slopes of Monte Senario.

In 1244, under the direction of Saint Peter of Verona, O.P., this small group adopted a religious habit similar to the Dominican habit, choosing to live under the Rule of St. Augustine and adopting the name of the Servants of Mary. The new Order took a form more like that of the mendicant friars than that of the older monastic Orders.

Members of the community came to the United States from Austria in 1852 and settled in New York and later in Philadelphia. The two American provinces developed from the foundation made by Father Austin Morini in 1870 in Wisconsin.

Community members combined monastic life and active ministry. In the monastery, they led a life of prayer, work and silence while in the active apostolate they engaged in pastoral ministry, teaching, preaching, and other ministries.

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