

# MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Fifth Week of Easter

**"Serenity comes from not having any investment in the outcome."**

(Unknown)

## **Acts 15:7-21**

The apostles discerned that the regulations of the Old Testament were meant to be a preparation for Christ and that the Old had passed away giving way to the New. At the close of the discernment process, James encouraged them to be patient and considerate to all converts and not to make the new life difficult for them.

**Be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. Be open to new ways, opportunities, and possibilities.**

## **Psalms 96**

**Sing to the Lord a new song,  
Sing to the Lord all you lands,  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name.....**

## **John 15:9-11**

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.....Abide in my love.....that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete."

The secret of the life of Jesus was his contact with the Father. Again, and again, he withdrew to quiet places to be alone with the father. He knew what it meant to "abide" in the Father's Love. His disciples must do the same.

To "abide" is to be in close contact, to be in touch, to be intimate, to live an intense and personal relationship, to surrender in fidelity, to surrender in obedience, etc.

Stay focused on developing a personal, intense, intimate relationship with the Lord. Stay close...stay connected...be in touch....

Abide in the presence of the Lord, in silence and in solitude.....Speak to the Lord from the depth of your heart.....

**Saint of the Day, May 7 - St. Rose Venerini and 11 other saints are remembered this day.**

Rose Venerini was born in 1656 at Viterbo in Italy, then a part of the Papal States.. Her father was a doctor at a major hospital in Viterbo. Following the death of her fiancé she entered a convent, but soon returned home to care for her newly widowed mother. During this period, Rose used to gather the women and girls of the neighborhood to say the rosary together in the evenings, and when she found how ignorant many of them were of their religion, she began to instruct them.

Under the guidance of her spiritual director, a Jesuit priest, she saw the need to dedicate herself to the instruction and Christian formation of the young. She became convinced that she was called to be a teacher in the world rather than a contemplative nun in a convent. In 1685, with two helpers, Rose opened a preschool for girls in Viterbo to give poor girls a complete Christian formation and to prepare them for life in society. Rose opened the first public school for girls in Italy.

Her reputation spread, and in 1692, she was invited by Cardinal Barbarigo to advise and help in the training of teachers and organizing of schools in his diocese of Montefiascone. Rose organized a number of schools in various places, sometimes in the face of violent opposition. Her patience and trust overcame all obstacles, and in 1713 she made a foundation in Rome that received the praise of Pope Clement XI. She died in Rome on May 7, 1728 and was canonized in 2006. The sodality, or group of women she had invited to prayer, was ultimately given the rank of a religious congregation. Today, the Venerini Sisters can be found in the United States and elsewhere, working among Italian immigrants.

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