

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Fourth Week of Easter

Serenity frees and empowers us not to retaliate when wronged.

Acts 13:13-25

Paul continued his missionary journey. He offered, to different groups of people, a summary of the history of salvation beginning with Abraham leading to the death and resurrection of Jesus. He invited people to accept Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

Psalm 89

**The favors of the Lord I will sing for ever;
Through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said, "My kindness is established for ever:
In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.**

John 13:16-20

Jesus had his last supper with his disciples. Great things happened during this meal. The Gospel reading of today flows from this experience. He had washed the feet of his disciples and called them to follow his example in gracious and self-sacrificing service.

Jesus also wanted the disciples to know that redeeming the world would cost him his life and that he was choosing death and that it was his chosen act of "surrender" to the will of his Father. This Gospel passage also refers to the bitterness of betrayal and the joy of fidelity. Jesus was accepting death in fidelity, in loyalty, in love, in total giving. And one of the disciples was going to betray him who loved and trusted!

Learn to surrender to the will of the Father! Pray for wisdom and courage to accept the cost of self-surrender!

The disciples were commissioned to go out with the master's message - not with their own agenda, but with the master's word. They were to speak his word, in his name. They were to stand with him, in him and for him.

Be faithful to the WORD of Jesus!

Saint of the Day, April 30 - St. Pius V and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Antonio Ghislieri was born on January 17, 1504 in Bosco in the Duchy of Milan, Italy. At the age of fourteen he entered the Dominican Order, taking the name Michele. Ordained a priest at Genoa in 1528, he was sent by his order to Pavia, where he lectured for sixteen years. At Parma he advanced thirty propositions in support of the papal chair and against the Protestant Reformation.

He became master of novices and was on several occasions elected prior of more than one Dominican priory. During a time of great moral laxity, he insisted on discipline, and strove to develop the practice of the monastic virtues. He fasted, did penance, passed long hours of the night in meditation and prayer, traveled on foot without a cloak in deep silence, or only speaking to his companions of the things of God. As his reformist zeal provoked resentment, he was compelled to return to Rome in 1550, where, after having been employed in several inquisitorial missions, he was elected to the commissariat of the Holy Office.

In 1556 he was made Bishop of Sutri by Pope Paul IV and was selected as inquisitor of the faith in Milan and Lombardy. In 1557 he was made a cardinal and named inquisitor general for all Christendom. Pope Pius IV appointed him Bishop of Mondovi in Piedmont. Before Michele Ghislieri could return to his episcopate, Pope Pius IV died. On January 8, 1566, Michele Ghislieri, was elected to the papal throne, taking the name Pope Pius V.

During his papacy (1566-1572), Pius V was faced with the almost overwhelming responsibility of getting a shattered and scattered Church back on its feet. The family of God had been shaken by corruption, by the Reformation, by the constant threat of Turkish invasion, etc. Pope Pius V was now charged with the task of implementing the sweeping reforms called for by the Council. He ordered the founding of seminaries for the proper training of priests. He published a new missal, a new breviary, a new catechism, and established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes for the young. Pius zealously enforced legislation against abuses in the Church. He patiently served the sick and the poor by building hospitals, providing food for the hungry, and giving money customarily used for the papal banquets to poor Roman converts. His decision to keep wearing his Dominican habit led to the custom of the pope wearing a white cassock.

Pius's ceaseless papal quest for a renewal of the Church was grounded in his personal life as a Dominican friar. He spent long hours with his God in prayer, fasted rigorously, deprived himself of many customary papal luxuries, and faithfully observed the spirit of the Dominican Rule that he had professed. Pius V died on May 1, 1572 of what is believed to be cancer. Pope Pius V was beatified by Pope Clement X in the year 1672 and was later canonized by Pope Clement XI on 22 May, 1712.

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