

# MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time

**Strive to be gentle, patient and forbearing so as to ease the burdens and pressures of others.**

## 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Paul encouraged the Corinthians to settle disputes in the community rather than bring lawsuits against one another and take matters to court. He told them that they have been washed clean, consecrated and justified in the name of Jesus.

**Paul challenged them to live decent and virtuous and godly lives and that alone will bring them to the kingdom.**

## Psalm 149

**Sing to the Lord a new song  
Of praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel be glad in their maker,  
Let the children of Zion rejoice in their king.**

## Luke 6:12-19

Jesus, after a night in prayer, chose a group of twelve and trusted them with his mission. His Life and Message must be lived out in fellowship. The Pharisees always isolated themselves from the people –Pharisee meant “separated”. The message of Jesus is to be lived in fellowship, in Community...shared life ... Shared Mission ... Shared spirit... Shared journey.

He chose a strange group of 12. A group of extremes met – shared their Master’s Vision and Mission – With Jesus they could transcend differences and barriers of culture, ethnicity, ideology, religious practices, etc. – They lived in fellowship.

**The most diverse type of people must live together in fellowship and fulfill a mission, which is far greater than all of them put together.**

He chose very ordinary people - men without any special qualification. All they had was an attraction to Jesus, courage to break free to follow Him and courage to witness. Jesus called them to be with him and to be sent out on his mission. He gave them a message, a power, a life-style, a presence and community to live in and care for.

**TODAY YOU ARE CALLED TO COMPLETE HIS MISSION.....**

## **Saint of the day, September 10 - St. Thomas of Villanova and 55 other saints are remembered this day.**

Thomas of Villanova was born Tomás García y Martínez in Fuenllana, Spain, in 1488. His father was a miller, who regularly distributed food and provisions to the poor, as did his mother. He grew up and was educated in Villanueva de los Infantes, in the Province of Ciudad Real, Spain, therefore the name Thomas of Villanueva. In spite of his family's wealth, as a young boy he often went about naked because he had given his clothing to the poor.

At the age of sixteen years, Thomas entered the University of Alcalá de Henares to study Arts and Theology. He became a professor there, teaching arts, logic, and philosophy, despite a continuing absentmindedness and poor memory. In 1516, he decided to join the Augustinian friars in Salamanca and in 1518 was ordained a priest.

He became renowned for his eloquent and effective preaching in the churches of Salamanca. Within the Order, he successively held the positions of prior of his local monastery, Visitor General, and Prior Provincial for Andalusia and Castile. In 1533, Thomas sent out the first Augustinian friars to arrive in Mexico.

In 1544 he was nominated as Archbishop of Valencia and he continued to refuse the position until ordered to accept by his superior. Given a donation to decorate his residence, he sent the money to a hospital in need of repair. He began his episcopacy by visiting every parish in the Archdiocese to discover what the needs of the people were. Aided by his assistant bishop, Juan Segriá, he put in order an archdiocese that for a century had not had direct pastoral government. He organized a special college for Moorish converts, and in particular an effective plan for social assistance, welfare, and charity.

He was well known for his great personal austerity (he sold the straw mattress on which he slept in order to give money to the poor) and wore the same habit that he had received in the novitiate, mending it himself. Thomas was known as "father of the poor." His continual charitable efforts were untiring, especially towards orphans, poor women without a dowry, and the sick. He established boarding schools and high schools. Thomas died in Valencia on September 8, 1555 of angina at the age of 67 and was canonized on January 15, 1888.

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