

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

**Having no purpose is not a good place to be.
Find your purpose and give yourself to it.**

Romans 8:31-39

After much discussion about his inner struggles, Paul spoke about the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life, the spirit that empowered him to love God and to proclaim the Gospel through difficult times. In this excerpt, he raises many questions, such as: "If God is for us who can be against us... who will separate us from the love of Christ?" His final answer to the question was that "nothing will separate us from the love of God." A man, who spoke of a war inside between desire for good and the tendency to do evil, is finally able to say, "Nothing will separate us from the love of God".

Psalms 109

**O God, My Lord, deal kindly with me,
For your name's sake;
In your generous kindness rescue me;
For I am wretched and poor,
And my heart is pierced within me....**

Luke 13:31-35

The Pharisees were hostile to Jesus. But some of them came to warn him about how Herod was trying to kill him. This shows us that all Pharisees were not hostile and unsympathetic to Jesus. We tend to put all people together into one category and pass judgments about them.

Be open and non-judgmental. Look beyond what you see and hear! Each person is unique. Learn to know, appreciate and respect each person as he/she is!

This excerpt is one of the passages that show how little we know about Jesus and how little even the Gospels tell us about him. Here, we find him deeply disturbed, distressed, disappointed, sad, hurt, even angry.....and pouring out from what is deeply inside of him.....we find his courage, compassion and tenderness...all expressed in real lament for Jerusalem.

Be in touch with your passions! Listen to your heart! Discern your passions!

Saint of the Day, October 30 - St. Alphonsus Rodriguez and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Born in Spain in 1533, Alphonsus inherited the family textile business at 23. Within the space of three years, his wife, daughter, and mother died; meanwhile, business was poor. Alphonsus stepped back and reassessed his life. He sold the business, and with his young son, moved into his sister's home. There he learned the discipline of prayer and meditation.

At the death of his son years later, Alphonsus, almost 40 by then, sought to join the Jesuits. He was not helped by his poor education. He applied twice before being admitted. For 45 years he served as doorkeeper at the Jesuits' college in Majorca. When not at his post, he was almost always at prayer, though he often encountered difficulties and temptations.

His holiness and prayerfulness attracted many to him, including Saint Peter Claver, then a Jesuit seminarian. Alphonsus' life as doorkeeper may have been humdrum, but centuries later he caught the attention of poet and fellow-Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkins, who made him the subject of one of his poems. Alphonsus died in 1617.

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