

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Jesus taught his disciples to patiently do everything possible to correct an erring brother or sister and that is what forbearance means.

(Mathew 18:21-22)

Hosea 10:1-3; 7-8; 12

Hosea shared his vision of God breaking down and destroying the pillars and altars and sacred places which Israel had set up because they had become unfaithful to God and turned to false gods. He told his people that it was time to seek the Lord and keep seeking “till he come and rain down justice upon you”.

Keep seeking the Lord and His ways...never stop seeking!

Psalm 105

**Sing to him, sing his praise,
Proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
Glory in his holy name;
Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord!**

Mathew 10:1-7

Jesus saw a rich harvest and the need for laborers to gather in the harvest. And he sent out an extraordinary mixture of very ordinary men with the most profound message: “The Kingdom of God is at hand”.

**In Jesus, the ordinary became extraordinary and the extraordinary became ordinary!
The disciples of Jesus were and still are men and women on the move, on a journey with a mission to share the good news of the presence of God’s kingdom.**

In Jesus strangers and enemies were transformed into a people of “communion”, of “fellowship”. Jesus began with a small group – the message had to be lived out in fellowship. The way of the Pharisees was separation; the way of Jesus was fellowship.

People who ordinarily would not have stayed together became one in the spirit and mission of Jesus.

Saint of the day, July 10 - St. Veronica Guiliani and 14 other saints are remembered this day.

Veronica was born Ursula Giuliani at Mercatelli, Italy on December 27, 1660. She was the youngest of seven sisters, three of whom embraced the monastic life. At the age of three years Giuliani supposedly began to show great compassion for the poor. She would set apart a portion of her food for them, and even part with her clothes when she met a poor child scantily clad. Her mother died when Ursula was seven years of age. It is said that when her mother was dying she called her five daughters to her bedside and entrusted each of them to one of the five wounds of Jesus. Veronica was entrusted to the wound below Christ's heart.

At the age of 17, Veronica joined the Poor Clares directed by the Capuchins. Her father had wanted her to marry, but she convinced him to allow her to become a nun. In her first years in the monastery, she worked in the kitchen, infirmary, sacristy, and also served as portress. At the age of 34, she was made novice mistress, a position she held for 22 years. When she was 37, Veronica received the stigmata. Life was not the same after that.

Church authorities in Rome wanted to test Veronica's authenticity and so conducted an investigation. She lost the office of novice mistress temporarily and was not allowed to attend Mass except on Sundays or holy days. Through all of this Veronica did not become bitter, and the investigation eventually restored her as novice mistress. Though she protested against it, at the age of 56 she was elected abbess, an office she held for 11 years until her death. Veronica was very devoted to the Eucharist and to the Sacred Heart. She offered her sufferings for the missions, died in 1727, and was canonized in 1839.

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