

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Monday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time**

**Simplicity doesn't change who you are, it brings you back to who you are.**

### **Galatians 1:6-12**

Some people told the Galatians that Paul was not an apostle and they need not listen to him. The main reason was that he was not one of the original twelve and that he was a persecutor of Christians. In this excerpt, we find Paul defending himself, claiming that his mission was given to him by God and not by any human authority. Paul was convinced that God has spoken to him and sent him on his mission.

### **Psalm 111**

**I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart,  
in the company and assembly of the just  
Great are the works of the Lord,  
exquisite in all their delights.**

### **Luke 10:25-37**

A lawyer asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit everlasting life. Jesus answered him by saying that he must follow the law that he knew which he spelled out as love God and neighbor with all that is available. The lawyer then wanted to know who the "neighbor" was. Jesus told him the story of the Good Samaritan and asked him to make his choice about who he was going to treat as his neighbor.

**This excerpt and the story that Jesus told teach us many things and give us good insights. First it reminds us that the most important thing is to love God and neighbor with all we have...give love all you got!**

**Secondly, it teaches us that the real question is not who my neighbor is but to whom I become a neighbor. Be a neighbor to someone today.**

**Thirdly, it teaches us not to take unnecessary risks like the man going down a dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho.....be cautious and discerning in making choices.**

**It also teaches us to be sensitive and care for people who are in need even when they have made unreasonable or wrong choices.....be compassionate and show compassion for someone today.**

## **Saint of the day, October 3 - Saint Theodora Guérin and 14 other saints are remembered this day**

Anne-Thérèse Guérin was born on October 2, 1798, in the village of Étables-sur-Mer in Brittany, France, near the end of the French Revolution, which led to the Reign of Terror and the establishment of the French First Republic. This period of significant change also caused a crisis within French Catholicism, when schools and churches were closed, and many Catholic priests chose exile over death from the guillotine.

When she was fifteen, tragedy struck the family. Bandits robbed and killed her father as he was traveling home to visit his family. The grief proved to be too much for Isabelle Guérin, who already had lost two children, and she fell into a deep depression. The teenaged Anne-Thérèse accepted the responsibility of caring for her mother and sister, as well as the family's home and garden. Around the age of twenty, she asked for her mother's blessing to join a religious order, but Isabelle was still unable to cope with her loss and refused. Five years later Isabelle recognized the depth of Anne-Thérèse's devotion to God and permitted her to leave home to join a convent. She entered the Sisters of Providence in 1823, taking the name Sister Saint Theodore. An illness during novitiate left her with lifelong fragile health, but that did not keep her from becoming an accomplished teacher.

At the invitation of the bishop of Vincennes, Indiana, Sr. Saint Theodore and five sisters were sent to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, in 1840, to teach and to care for the sick poor. She was to establish a motherhouse and novitiate. Only later did she learn that her French superiors had already decided the sisters in the United States should form a new religious congregation under her leadership.

Mother Theodore and her community persevered despite fires, crop failures, prejudice against Catholic women religious, misunderstandings, and separation from their original religious congregation. She once told her sisters, "Have confidence in the Providence that so far has never failed us. The way is not yet clear. Grope along slowly. Do not press matters; be patient, be trustful." Another time she asked, "With Jesus, what shall we have to fear?"

Mother Theodora died on May 14, 1856 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, U.S.A. and was buried in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, now the Shrine of St. Mother Theodore, in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. She was canonized as Saint Theodora Guérin eight years later by Pope Benedict XVI on October 15, 2006.

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