

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Forbearance is the strong putting up with the failings of the weak.

2 Peter 3:12-15, 17-18

The author of this letter advises the readers to wait patiently, blamelessly and in peace for the coming of the new heaven and the new earth where justice of God will dwell. He encourages them to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

Be patient! Cultivate peace! Live blamelessly! Grow in grace!

Palm 90

**Fill us at day break with your kindness,
That we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.
Let your work be seen by your servants
And your glory by their children.**

Mark 12:13-17

In response to a trick question from the Herodians, Jesus revealed a great truth. They sought his opinion on paying tax to the emperor. He invited them to look at the coin and identify the image on the coin. The image on the coin indicated ownership.

The coin belonged to the emperor since his image was on it. "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's". Pay him what is due to him.

Then he taught another great truth: "give to God what is God's". The coin has the image of the emperor...you have the image of God...give yourself to God. We are made in God's image and likeness and we must be faithful to that image.

Loyalty to God takes priority over all else. Loyalty to God is fidelity to what God made you to be, obedience to what God wants you to do, striving to become what God wants you to become and faithfulness to all that is of God and from God.

Saint of the Day, June 4 - St. Francis Caracciolo and 19 other saints are remembered this day.

St Francis Caracciolo was born on October 13, 1563 in Villa Santa Maria in the Abruzzo region, in the Kingdom of Naples. From a young age, he had a reputation for gentleness and uprightness. At age 22, he developed a troublesome skin disease resembling leprosy, one of the most dreaded diseases of the day. So serious was this attack that he was considered hopeless. With death so near, he made a vow that if he regained his health, he would spend the rest of his life in the service of God and his fellow men. He recovered so quickly after this vow that his cure was considered miraculous.

Eager to fulfil his promise to God, he went to Naples to study for the priesthood. There he befriended a man who wanted to establish a new religious community that would focus on both the active and the contemplative life. Francis helped draw up Rules for the new Order of the Minor Clerks Regular. Members of the Order agreed among themselves never to seek leadership within the group, though Francis was elected many times to serve in such positions.

Even in his capacity as superior of the Order, he insisted on sharing simple tasks: sweeping rooms, making beds, washing dishes. As a priest, Francis spent many hours in the confessional. He also begged in the streets for the poor and gave away most of his possessions to the needy. Francis died on June 4, 1608 and was canonized on May 24, 1807 in Rome by Pope Pius VII

Fr. Gus Tharappel,msfs