

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**Forbearance is the discipline that helps us
develop our spiritual muscles.**

James 4:1-10

James teaches us to cleanse and purify our hearts and live a life of obedience to God and God's ways and turn away from the ways of the world that are opposed to God's ways. Worldly ambition leads to conflict, jealousy, quarrel and the like. Draw close to God and God will draw close to you. Be humble before God.

Psalm 55

**Cast your care upon the Lord,
And he will support you;
Never will he permit the just man to be disturbed...**

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and the disciples came down the mountain after a wonderful experience of glory and peace. He began to talk about being betrayed and about being put to death. Mark tells us that the disciples failed to understand what he was saying.

Jesus began teaching the disciple a new way of being.....way of serving, being at the service of God by serving people, even at great cost...even to death!

Even when the disciples heard this urgent and difficult call, they began thinking about their honor, about occupying important position and about who among them was really important

Jesus challenged them to put themselves at the service of others and gave them a little child as an example.....

Be at the service of the "little ones", whoever they may be, the ones who cannot give you important positions, the ones who cannot make you important before others...

True honor for those who follow the master, Jesus, lies in serving the "little ones" in the world! Be there, faithfully and gratefully for the "little ones" of the world!

Saint of the Day, May 21 - St. Eugene de Mazenod and 30 other saints are remembered this day.

Eugene de Mazenod was born on August 1, 1782 in Aix-en-Provence, France. Because of the French revolution, the family was forced to flee to Italy. In spite of the upheaval of the French Revolution, he entered the seminary, and was ordained a priest at Amiens in 1811. Soon after his ordination, he organized missionaries to go to rural parts of Provence, instructing the people whose religious training had been disrupted for many years by the French Revolution and its aftermath. Eugene directed his ministry toward the poorest of the poor. Others joined his labors, and became the nucleus of a religious community, the Missionaries of Provence.

Eugene began the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1816, obtaining papal approval for them 10 years later. From rural preaching, they soon moved into running seminaries to improve the quality of the clergy. Their first foreign mission was in Canada in 1841; soon they were in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America.

Eugene became Bishop of Marseille, following his uncle. There he built churches, founded parishes, cared for his priests, and developed catechetics for the young. After a life dedicated to spreading the Good News, Eugene died on May 21, 1861 and was canonized in 1998.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs