

MORNING MEDITATIONS

Saturday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Forbearance is making allowance for each other's faults.

Isaiah 6:1-8

In this excerpt, Isaiah tells us of his overwhelming experience of God. He was in the sanctuary where he heard the angels singing "Holy, Holy, Holy..." He became overcome with his own sense of unworthiness in the presence of the Holy and cried out "Woe is me.... I am a man of unclean lips..." At this point, once again, he had an amazing experience of being cleansed and being called by God and he accepted that call in faith.

Listen to the Lord calling you. Reflect on what he is calling you to be and to do today. Be generous in your response. The Lord will make you worthy of his call and empower you to fulfill your mission.

Psalm 93

**The Lord is king in splendor robed;
Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength,
And he has made the world firm, not to be moved.
Your throne stands firm from of old;
From everlasting you are, O Lord.**

Mathew 10:24-33

Mathew gives us a few disconnected sayings of Jesus and we need to reflect on them one by one and not search for connections.

First, Jesus warned the disciples of the problems they will face. The disciple cannot expect any more favors than the Master.... they have to be prepared to face testing times like their master. He encouraged them to be fearless!

Truth is meant to be seen, not concealed. We try to hide certain things from ourselves, certain things from others and certain things, even from God! Jesus calls us to be honest, sincere - not hypocritical! Jesus calls us to be fearless - not reckless.

God's care is very personal. We are not lost in the crowd - God takes personal care of us. "Are not five sparrows sold for a few pennies? Yet not one of them is neglected by God." God personally cares for you. So be fearless. You are worth more.....

Saint of the day, July 13 - Saint Henry and 13 other saints are remembered this day

St. Henry was born in 972 to Duke Henry of Bavaria and Princess Gisela of Burgundy. During his youth, Henry received both an education and spiritual guidance from bishop Wolfgang of Regensburg who was, eventually, canonized a saint. Henry took on his father's position as Duke of Bavaria in 995, one year after St. Wolfgang's death. The Church supported his accession to the throne as King of Germany in 1002. As king, Henry encouraged the German bishops to reform the practices of the Church in accordance with canon law.

In 1014, the German king journeyed to Rome where Pope Benedict VIII formally crowned him as head of the Holy Roman Empire. The emperor demonstrated his loyalty to the Pope by confirming Benedict VIII's authority over the city of Rome. Henry made his journey from Rome back to Germany into a pilgrimage of sorts, stopping at various monasteries along the way. Henry became a great patron of churches and monasteries, donating so much of his wealth to them that his relatives complained that he was behaving irresponsibly. He was also a great patron of the poor, making enormous contributions for their relief.

The emperor's extraordinary generosity was made possible in part by his lack of an heir. He was married to a woman who was later canonized as a saint, St. Cunigunde of Luxembourg, but the two had no children.

For the last several years of his life, Henry had to deal with serious illness, and an additional ailment that crippled his left leg, along with his imperial responsibilities. He found support in prayer during these trials, and seriously considered resigning his imperial leadership in order to become a monk. After several years of illness, St. Henry II died in July of 1024. Pope Eugene III canonized him in 1146.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs