

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**Being grounded in faith, moving in hope and living in love
bring serenity and peace.**

Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14

This excerpt describes Paul's anxiety over the situation of the Gentile converts and the Judaizers. He was convinced that he had a special mission to the Gentiles and that they were not bound by the Mosaic Law and so they should not be forced to follow the Mosaic Law. He challenged Peter and Barnabas to be straightforward with the truth of the Gospel and not behave one way with the Gentile converts and another way with the Jews.

Be straightforward with the truth of the Gospel!

Psalm 117

**Praise the Lord, all you nations,
Glorify him, all you peoples!
For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
And the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.**

Luke 11:1-4

The Rabbis used to teach their disciples simple prayers. John did the same for his disciples. The disciples of Jesus asked their master to do the same for them. In this excerpt, Luke tells us what Jesus taught in response to this request.

The first "three" petitions are about reverence for God - holy be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done - God first. All other things will then fall in their proper places. Prayer should not be our attempt to bend God's will to our desires. It must be a surrender of our will to God's will, bringing our will into harmony with God's will. The second "three" petitions are about our needs and they cover all life, three essential needs in three spheres of time. The whole of life is brought before God: The present need - the hunger of the day/Bread for the day; past Sin - forgiveness for sin and future trials - testing times/help for meeting the test.

Pray constantly.... Pray with Confidence: "Your will be done".

**Saint of the Day, October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary and 14 saints are
remembered this day**

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, formerly known as the feast of Our Lady of Victory and Feast of the Holy Rosary, celebrates the 16th century naval victory which secured Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe. Pope Pius V established this feast soon after.

Troops of the Turkish Ottoman Empire had invaded and occupied the Byzantine empire by 1453, bringing a large portion of the increasingly divided Christian world under a version of Islamic law. For the next hundred years, the Turks expanded their empire westward on land and asserted their naval power in the Mediterranean. In 1565 they attacked Malta, envisioning an eventual invasion of Rome. Though repelled at Malta, the Turks captured Cyprus in the fall of 1570.

The next year, three Catholic powers on the continent – Genoa, Spain, and the Papal States - formed an alliance called the Holy League, to defend their Christian civilization against Turkish invasion. Its fleets sailed to confront the Turks near the west coast of Greece on October 7, 1571.

Crew members on more than 200 ships prayed the Rosary in preparation for the battle - as did Christians throughout Europe, encouraged by the Pope to gather in their churches to invoke the Virgin Mary against the daunting Turkish forces. Some accounts say that Pope Pius V was granted a miraculous vision of the Holy League's stunning victory. Without a doubt, the Pope understood the significance of the day's events, when he was eventually informed that all but 13 of the nearly 300 Turkish ships had been captured or sunk. He was moved to institute the feast now celebrated universally as Our Lady of the Rosary.

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