

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Fourth Week of Easter

**Every person has a longing to be significant
and to be a part of something noble and purposeful.**

Acts 11:1-18

As the Church continued to grow, new problems and issues began to surface. The Gentiles welcomed the word of God and were accepted into the Church. This set off a major controversy about the obligations of the Mosaic Law.

In this passage from Acts, we read about the reasons that Peter gave for accepting the Gentiles into the Church without imposing the obligations of the Mosaic Law. The main thought was, "if God has gifted the Gentiles with the life-giving spirit, who are we to impose restrictions?".

This is a good question for all of us, "who are we to impose restrictions on God's gift of Grace?"

Psalms 42

**As the hind longs for the running waters,
So my soul longs for you, O God.
Athirst is my soul for God, the living God,
When shall I go and behold the face of God.**

John 10:1-10

We have the beautiful and inspiring image of the shepherd, who has an intimate and very personal knowledge of the sheep, leading the sheep and keeping them safe. Jesus is presented as this shepherd, a caring, listening, sensitive and self-sacrificing leader.

**Look to Jesus as your good shepherd, leader and friend! And like the good shepherd,
be a caring, sensitive and self-sacrificing leader!**

**Learn to make these qualities yours in your ministry as a parent or educator or pastor
or political or social leader.**

**Saint of the Day, May 12 - Saint Leopold Mandic and 12 other saints are
remembered this day.**

Leopold was born Bogdan Ivan Mandić on May 12, 1866 in the coastal town of Herceg Novi, today part of Montenegro. He was the twelfth child of Dragica Zarević and Petar Antun Mandić, owner of an Adriatic fishing fleet. He grew up in the orbit of a community of Capuchin friars based in the Province of Venice who had served in his town for two centuries. Physically malformed and delicate, he grew to a height of only 4'5", with a clumsy walk and afflicted by stuttering.

He felt called to the Franciscan way of life, took the habit of Franciscan Capuchins, took the religious name of Leopold of Castelnuovo, and was ordained a priest on September 20, 1890. He could not speak loudly enough to preach publicly. For many years he also suffered from severe arthritis, poor eyesight, and a stomach ailment. For several years Leopold taught Patrology, the study of the Church Fathers, to the clerics of his province, but he is best known for his work in the confessional, where he sometimes spent 13-15 hours a day. Several bishops sought out his spiritual advice.

Leopold's dream was to go to the Orthodox Christians and work for the reunion of Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy. His health never permitted it. Leopold often renewed his vow to go to the Eastern Christians; the cause of unity was constantly in his prayers. Leopold lived most of his life in Padua, died on July 30, 1942, and was canonized in 1982.

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