

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time

Steadfast love is love that pours itself out generously and fully, whatever the cost, in order that the other might benefit, flourish and thrive.

I Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63

Persecution of the Israelites began under king Antiochus Epiphanes. Many Israelites gave up their traditions and joined the “life-style of the Gentiles”, sacrificed to idols, profaned the Sabbath, etc. But many stood strong and remained faithful to their traditions, to the law of Yahweh rather than obey the King and his orders. Many chose to die in faithfulness to Yahweh and His law. This is the beginning of the Maccabee revolution.

Psalm 119

**Redeem me form oppression of men,
that I may keep your precepts.
I am attacked by malicious persecutors,
Who are far from your law!**

Luke 18:35-43

The blind man near Jericho, cried out “have pity on me, Jesus”. What do you want me to do for you? Jesus asked. The blind man responded: “I want to see”. The blind man was determined to come face to face with Jesus. He refused to be silent. He refused to be restrained. The urgency of his need drove him into the presence of Jesus. He was passionate. His desire was intense. He wanted to see.

How intense, how passionate, how deep is your desire to know, to see.....? Try to make this your prayer this week: “Master, I want to see”. Let the Lord open your eyes...the eyes of your mind and your heart.....let him help you see yourself better, see the world more positively and creatively and the Lord more fully....

When the blind man cried out Jesus was busy with discoursing to the crowd, like any other Rabbi. He stopped at the blind man’s cry of urgency. For Jesus, words took second place to deeds. Response to the human person in need was a priority. Many admire a man with great ideas, but they love a man with a big heart.

Have a big heart! Live from the heart! Reach out to someone today. Let him/her see what’s in your heart!

Saint of the Day, November 20 - St. Edmund Rich and 62 other saints are remembered this day.

Edmund Rich was born in Abingdon, England on November 30, 1180. He studied at Oxford, England, and in Paris, France. He taught art and mathematics at Oxford and was ordained a priest. He spent eight years teaching theology and became a Canon and treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral. An eloquent speaker, Edmund preached a crusade for Pope Gregory IX and was named archbishop of Canterbury. He became an advisor to King Henry III and presided in 1237 at Henry's ratification of the Great Charter. When Cardinal Olt became a papal legate with the patronage of King Henry, Edmund protested. A long-lasting feud between Edmund, the king, and his legate led him to resigning his see in 1240. He went to Pontigny, France, where he became a Cistercian monk. He died at Soissons, on November 16, 1240 in Soisy-Bouy, France and was canonized in 1246 or 1247.

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