

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Fourth Week of Easter

**Elegance is achieved when all that is superfluous has been discarded
and the human being discovers simplicity and concentration.**
(Paulo Coelho)

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 in to 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?”

Psalm 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 9 - St. John of Avila and 12 other saints are remembered this day.

John was born in Almodóvar del Campo, Ciudad Real, Spain to a wealthy and pious couple on January 6, 1499. At the age of fourteen, he was sent to the University of

Salamanca to study law. He later moved to Alcala, where he studied philosophy and theology before his ordination as a diocesan priest. Both his parents died while he was still a student, and after his ordination, he celebrated his first Mass in the church where they were buried. He then sold the family property and gave the proceeds to the poor.

In 1527, he traveled to Seville, hoping to become a missionary in Mexico. While waiting in Seville, his unusually great devotion in celebrating Mass, and his skills in catechesis and preaching, attracted the attention of the Archbishop of Seville. The archbishop saw in the young cleric a powerful instrument to stir up the faith in Andalusia, and after considerable persuasion John was persuaded to abandon his journey to Mexico. During nine years of work there, he developed a reputation as an eloquent preacher, a spiritual director, and a wise confessor.

He was friends with Saints Francis Borgia, Ignatius of Loyola, John of God, John of the Cross, Peter of Alcantara, and Teresa of Avila. John of Avila worked closely with members of the Society of Jesus and helped their growth within Spain and its colonies. John's mystical writings have been translated into several languages. John died on May 10, 1569 in Córdoba, Spain. He was canonized in 1970, and declared a doctor of the Church on October 7, 2012.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs