

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday within the Octave of Easter

Stillness is where creativity and solutions to problems are found.
(Eckhart Tolle)

Acts 2:14, 22-32

Peter makes very bold proclamations about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The man who denied knowing Jesus has now risen to great courage and freedom that he can now affirm who Jesus is for him and for the world. The man who was afraid to give witness to Jesus now says: "This is the Jesus God has raised up and we are his witnesses".

The risen Jesus gives us a new power and freedom to be his witnesses in the world.

Psalm 16

**Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge,
I say to the Lord, "My Lord are you."
O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.**

Mathew 28:8-15

Mathew tells us that Mary of Magdala came to the tomb of Jesus with the other Mary. They had a tremendous experience in which an angel told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead and that his tomb was empty. They were given a mission to go and tell the disciples: "He has been raised from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him".

The women were fearful, but they loved much and with much love, they went to visit the tomb of their master. They looked beyond their fears and their tears, and they found their master and friend, Jesus, alive!

Mathew tells us, in the Gospel reading of today, that the women, "half-overjoyed and half-fearful", ran to carry the good news to the disciples. They found an urgency to run because their master was alive and they ran, carrying good news. They loved much and they ran with love.....they were blessed again..... Jesus met them in this urgency, in this "running with good news" and he gifted them again, "PEACE" and send them to the disciples with the message that he would meet them in Galilee.

There is an urgency, now more than ever before, for us, to announce the good news of the resurrection, the good news of the gift of God's peace. We are people of the resurrection, people gifted with God's peace. We must proclaim this good news.

Saint of the Day, April 6 - St. Crescentia Hoess and 15 other saints are remembered this day.

Anna Hoess was born on October 20, 1682 in Kaufbeuren, Bavaria, Germany, to Matthias Hoess and his wife, Lucia Hoermann. Her father, Matthias Hoess, a simple weaver, was barely able, despite diligent work, to provide the necessities for his family of eight children. Anna became a weaver, but her greatest ambition was to enter the local convent of the Tertiary Franciscans in Kaufbeuren, in whose chapel she often prayed. Her father, being a poor weaver did not have enough money to pay the customary dowry and so she was not admitted.

Anna hoped and prayed to be admitted among the consecrated virgins in the convent of the Tertiaries in her native town. But the convent was poor, and the superiors declared that they could not receive her without a dowry. Then the Protestant Mayor of the town lent his aid. He had rendered the convent a great service; when the nuns came to offer their expressions of gratitude, he told them that they might now, as a favor to him, accept the daughter of the poor weaver Hoess.

Anna was received into the convent and took the name Crescentia, but she was made to feel that she had come without a dowry and was received only through force of necessity. She was compelled to do the lowliest work of a maid; she was regarded as a burden, frowned upon and despised. Her readiness to be obliging and friendly was interpreted as flattery and hypocrisy. The nuns would gladly have gotten rid of her if they were not obligated to the mayor.

Conditions improved four years later when a new superior was elected who realized her virtue. Crescentia herself was appointed mistress of novices. She so won the love and respect of the sisters that, upon the death of the superior, Crescentia was unanimously elected to that position. Under her, the financial state of the convent improved and her reputation in spiritual matters spread. She was soon being consulted by princes and princesses; bishops and cardinals too sought her advice. And yet, a true daughter of Francis, she remained ever humble.

Bodily afflictions and pain were always with her. First it was headaches and toothaches. Then she lost the ability to walk, her hands and feet gradually becoming so crippled that her body curled up into a fetal position. Despite her sufferings she was filled with peace and joy as she died on Easter Sunday, on April 5, 1744. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

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