

# MORNING MEDITATION

## Monday, Third Week in Ordinary Time

**God's love is always there, perfect and unchanging,  
forever loving...steadfast!**

### **Hebrews 9:15, 24-28**

Christ is the mediator of a new Covenant. Christ has entered the eternal sanctuary and he appears before God on our behalf. Through Christ we receive the promised eternal inheritance.

### **Psalm 98**

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous deeds;  
His right hand has won victory for hi, his holy arm.  
Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;  
break into song, sing praise.....

### **Mark 3:22--30**

Jesus was accused of being possessed by Beelzebul. Jesus asked them how Satan could expel Satan.....internal dissention, disintegration within would cause kingdoms to fall. Jesus had to be in harmony with goodness, with truth, with love, with God to stand against evil forces. **Harmony within is a necessary condition for overcoming enemy forces, whatever the enemy may be! Reflect on need for unity, integrity, harmony!**

In Jewish thought (not as we understand it today), the Holy Spirit had two great functions: the revelation of God's truth and enabling men to recognize that truth when it is revealed. This Gospel passage (Mk.28-30) should be understood in light of this concept of the Holy Spirit. If a man, by repeated refusal of God's guidance (Holy Spirit's revelation) has lost the ability to recognize goodness when he sees it and if he has got his moral values so twisted (inverted) that evil to him is good and good to him is evil - then he is not conscious of sin, he can not repent and therefore he can not experience forgiveness. And that is the sin against the Holy Spirit.

**This passage speaks more about the need for recognizing evil and evil forces; repenting of ones' failures and accepting forgiveness...than about not being forgiven of a particular sin. Reflect on the need to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

**Pray for the gift of discernment. Pray for those who have not been enlightened, those who have not come to know the truth, those who have not experienced Forgiveness and Grace.**

**Saint of the day, January 23 – St. Marianne Cope and 17 other saints are remembered this day.**

Marianne was born to Peter and Barbara Cope of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany on January 23, 1838. Two years later the Cope family emigrated to the United States and settled in Utica, New York. Young Barbara worked in a factory until August 1862, when she went to the Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York. After profession in November of the following year, she began teaching at Assumption parish school.

Marianne held the post of superior in several places and was twice the novice mistress of her congregation. A natural leader, three different times, she was superior of St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, where she learned much that would be useful during her years in Hawaii.

Elected provincial in 1877, Mother Marianne was unanimously re-elected in 1881. Two years later the Hawaiian government was searching for someone to run the Kakaako Receiving Station for people suspected of having leprosy. More than 50 religious communities in the United States and Canada were asked. When the request was put to the Syracuse sisters, 35 of them volunteered immediately. On October 22, 1883, Mother Marianne and six other sisters left for Hawaii where they took charge of the Kakaako Receiving Station outside Honolulu; on the island of Maui they also opened a hospital and a school for girls.

In 1888, Mother Marianne and two sisters went to Molokai to open a home for "unprotected women and girls" there. On Molokai she took charge of the home that Saint Damien de Veuster had established for men and boys. Mother Marianne changed life on Molokai by introducing cleanliness, pride, and fun to the colony. Bright scarves and pretty dresses for the women were part of her approach.

Mother Marianne came to be known as Mother Marianne of Molokai. Awarded the Royal Order of Kapiolani by the Hawaiian government and celebrated in a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, Mother Marianne continued her work faithfully. Her sisters have attracted vocations among the Hawaiian people and still work on Molokai. Mother Marianne died on August 9, 1918 and was beatified in 2005 and canonized seven years later.

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