

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Monday, Fourth Week of Easter**

**Dear Lord, grant us the gift of forbearance  
that we may tolerate our own imperfections and those of others.**

### **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?"**

### **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**

Jesus speaks of himself as a caring, listening, sensitive and self-sacrificing shepherd, who has an intimate and very personal knowledge of the sheep. This is the real, good shepherd who is born to his task. The sheep became his friends and companions and he thought of the sheep before he thought of himself.

The false shepherd came to the job as a way of making money, for the pay he could get, with no sense of responsibility to the sheep. The good shepherd worked and sacrificed himself for the sheep and the false one worked mainly for the money, for himself. The person who works only for a reward thinks only of the rewards, the person who works for love, thinks of the people he loves. Jesus was the good shepherd who so loved his sheep that he risked his life and gave his life totally for the sheep that he loved.

**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, April 22 - St. Adalbert of Prague and 22 other saints are remembered this day.**

Adalbert was born in 956 into an illustrious family of Bohemia. In childhood he was taken by a fatal illness and his parents made a vow to the Holy Virgin to offer him to the priesthood if he would be cured. Their prayers were answered, and the boy recovered his health. They sent their son to Magdeburg to the saintly Archbishop of Magdeburg, who oversaw his education in religion and science.

In 973 he received holy orders from the Bishop of Prague. Later, this Bishop died a bad death, screaming in despair on his deathbed that he would be condemned for his negligence to his duties and ardent pursuit of honors, wealth and pleasures. A witness to this sad end, Adalbert never forgot it, taking it as a lesson for the rest of his life. The next year he was chosen as Bishop of Prague.

He entered Prague barefoot and was joyfully received by the people. The Diocese was in a deplorable situation. Some of its inhabitants were still idolaters, and many Catholics were well entrenched in shameful vices. In vain St. Adalbert tried to correct them and to bring them to religion and piety. When his efforts proved fruitless, he obtained papal permission to leave the Episcopate and enter a monastery in Rome. After five years, Pope John XV sent him back to Prague with the provision that he could again leave the Episcopate if the people did not correspond.

A second time he was received joyfully, and the people promised to correct themselves and leave their heathen practices. These hasty promises were soon forgotten, however, and the Saint determined to abandon them forever and return to his monastery. On his way back to Rome, he met with a great success in Hungary, where he converted many to Catholicism. With this, the Pope ordered him to not come to Rome, but to return to Prague. At this news, the elites of Prague became enraged and killed many relatives of the Saint, stole his belongings, and burned the family castles.

Adalbert went to Boleslaus, his friend, son of the Duke of Poland. In this country he again converted many idolaters. On a missionary trip to Prussia he converted some of the inhabitants of Danzig. It was there that he met his death when a group of pagans attacked him. When he received the first blow, he thanked God for giving him the opportunity to suffer for Him. Then the pagan priest leading the idolaters pierced his body with a two-headed lance, saying: "Be joyous, then, since you want nothing more than to suffer with your Christ." It was April 23, 997. Opposition to the Good News of Jesus did not discourage Adalbert, who is now remembered with great honor in the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Germany

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