

MORNING MEDITATION

St. Lawrence

Do your work, then step back. The only path to serenity.

(Lao Tzu)

2 Corinthians 9:6-10

Paul encouraged the Corinthian community to be generous with all of God's gifts as a sign of gratitude and confidence in God's watchful care. Generosity will become fruitful in abundance. God will provide in abundance.....generosity will be enriched in every way.....be joyful in giving!

Be gracious and joyful in giving! Let your giving be a sign of gratitude!

Psalms 112

**Happy the man, who fears the Lord,
Who greatly delights in his commands.
His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;
The upright generation shall be blessed.**

John 12:24-26

The Greeks came to see Jesus. Jesus told them that his hour had come – time for total giving in suffering and death had come, “the grain of wheat must die” to become fruitful. Jesus told them what it would cost them to be his disciples: falling to the ground, dying, losing oneself, serving others, laying down one's life, being raised up – total giving.

Reflect on your call to accept the inconveniences, suffering, pain, cross - all of life's struggles in faithfulness to God. Stand strong in faith during difficult times. Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted!

They had to learn to let go of the standards of the world: power, prestige, wealth, name, fame, security. They had to accept the standards, the values of the kingdom: simplicity, humility, selfless service, self-gift, total giving.....

Letting go is not easy and to let go of a sure and certain and secure thing in order to welcome something new and untried is even more difficult. Reflect on the challenge to let go of the world's standards and accept the way of Jesus!

Saint of the Day, August 10 - St. Lawrence and 15 other saints are remembered this day.

Lawrence was born, probably, on December 31, 225, in Valencia, then part of the Roman province of Spain. Lawrence met the future Pope Sixtus II, who was of Greek origin and one of the most famous and highly esteemed teachers, in Caesaraugusta (today Zaragoza). Eventually, both left Spain for Rome. When Sixtus became the Pope in 257, he ordained Lawrence as a deacon, and though Lawrence was still young appointed him first among the seven deacons who served in the cathedral church. He is therefore called "archdeacon of Rome", a position of great trust that included the care of the treasury and riches of the Church and the distribution of alms to the indigent.

At the beginning of August 258, the Emperor Valerian issued an edict that all bishops, priests, and deacons should immediately be put to death. Pope Sixtus II was captured on 6 August 258, at the cemetery of St Callixtus while celebrating the liturgy and executed. After the death of Sixtus, the prefect of Rome demanded that Lawrence turn over the riches of the Church and Lawrence asked for three days to gather the wealth. He worked swiftly to distribute as much Church property to the indigent as possible, so as to prevent its being seized by the prefect.

On the third day, at the head of a small delegation, he presented himself to the prefect, and when ordered to deliver the treasures of the Church he presented the indigent, the crippled, the blind, and the suffering, and declared that these were the true treasures of the Church. Legends about Lawrence say that the official was so enraged that he ordered Lawrence roasted alive over a fire. To encourage the poor who were forced to watch, Lawrence was said to have joked, "Turn me over. I am done on this side". On August 10, 257, Lawrence, the last of the seven deacons, and therefore, the ranking Church official, suffered a martyr's

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