

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Accepting the present moment and finding God's Grace now
brings us serenity and peace.**

Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12

Amos challenged his people to be faithful to God's choice. God had chosen Israel over other nations and made them his special people. But his people did not turn to God. Now Amos says that his people should prepare themselves to meet their God.

This reminds us of what Jesus said: I have chosen you; you have not chosen me. Be faithful to the choice God has made for you.

Psalm 5

**Because of your abundant mercy,
I will enter your house;
I will worship at your holy temple,
In fear of you O Lord.**

Mathew 8:23-27

This is one of the rare stories in the Gospels.... very human, very ordinary, down to earth experience of Jesus and the disciples.

We meet Jesus "soundly" asleep. We meet the disciples who were afraid of the storm but unafraid to wake up their master!

The Sea of Galilee was known for sudden and violent storms. Jesus trusted his men with the boat in an unpredictable Sea and went to sleep. His men woke him up in their urgent need. He woke up to save his men.

What a wonderful relationship between master and disciples...trusting each other...being free with each other.... unafraid of each other!

The Lord trusted his men with his mission and today he trusts us with his mission. It is up to us to trust in his presence, in his being with us in all our needs and to call him in our difficult moments with confidence. Be confident, the Lord is with you!

Saint of the day, June 30 - First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church and 16 other saints re remembered this day.

This feast first came into the General Roman Calendar in the 1969 calendar reforms. The intention of the feast was to give a general celebration of early Roman martyrs. Prior to the calendar reforms, there were many Roman martyrs commemorated in the calendar. Several of these had little or no historical evidence. This feast is a replacement for the many feasts of Roman martyrs. The placement of the feast is directly after the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, who are the principal patron saints of Rome.

There was a large Jewish population in Rome. Probably as a result of controversy between Jews and Jewish Christians, the Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome in 49-50 A.D. Many returned to Rome after Claudius' death in 54 A.D. In July of 64 A.D., more than half of Rome was destroyed by fire. Nero, who wanted to enlarge his palace, was blamed for this tragedy. He shifted the blame by accusing the Christians. Many Christians were put to death. Peter and Paul were probably among the victims.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs