

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Twenty Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

**The final wisdom of life requires not the annulment of incongruity
but the achievement of serenity within and above it.**

(Reinhold Niebuhr)

Galatians 5:1-6

Paul taught the Galatians to trust in God's gift of Grace and live a life of Grace. His position was that the way of Grace and the way of law were mutually exclusive. The way of the law makes salvation dependant on human achievements and the way of Grace makes a person depend on the mercy of God. The essence of Christian life was seen as a personal relationship with Jesus and not obedience to any law. With the coming of the reign of Grace, the reign of law was ended.

You are called for freedom. "Only faith which expresses itself through love" can bring the justification that we hope for. "So stand firm" and make your choice: freedom in Christ or slavery to the law.

Psalms 119

**Let your kindness come to me, O Lord,
your salvation according to your promise.
Take not the word of truth from my mouth,
For in your ordinance is my hope.**

Luke 11:37-41

Jesus accepted the invitation of a Pharisee to dine at his house. Jesus was neither afraid nor ashamed to associate with the Pharisees who were looking out for ways to trap him. Jesus used every opportunity to fulfill his mission of bringing the good news of God's love to people.

Welcome every opportunity to bring the good news of Jesus to others.

The Pharisees were surprised to see that Jesus did not observe the ceremonial laws such as washing hands before eating. Ceremonial laws were prescribed and spelled out in all details. To omit the smallest detail of this was to sin. Jesus told them that they should be more concerned about the cleansing of their hearts than cleansing of their hands. It is much easier to observe the details than to be faithful to the truth of the Gospel. It is not

difficult to go to church regularly, read a few passages from the bible, sing a few hymns to Jesus, give a few dollars to the poor, etc. It is much more challenging and difficult to be just, to be honest, to be respectful, to be forgiving, to be peacemaking, etc.

Jesus challenged the Pharisee to be true to the values of religion without ignoring the details. Go beyond the conventions of religion and be faithful to the truth.

Saint of the Day, October 13 - Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher and 15 other saints are remembered this day

Eulalie Durocher was born in a little village near Montreal, Quebec, Canada on October 6, 1811. She was the tenth of a family of eleven children. She received her initial education from her mother and her grandfather. At the age of 16, she felt the desire to become a religious, but was forced to abandon the idea because of her weak health. At the age of 18, when her mother died, her priest brother invited Eulalie and their father to come to his parish in Beloeil, not far from Montreal. For 13 years, Eulalie served as housekeeper, hostess, and parish worker. She became well-known for her graciousness, courtesy, leadership, and tact. she became known as “the saint of Beloeil.”

Canada was one diocese from coast to coast with half-million Catholics facing a shortage of priests and sisters. In 1843 the new bishop suggested that Eulalie form a religious congregation dedicated to education. Eulalie with two companions founded the “Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.” In 1844, in the church at Longueuil, Eulalie Durocher professed vows and became Mother Marie-Rose.

Marie-Rose was 32 and the next six more years were filled with poverty, trials, sickness, and slander. The qualities she had nurtured in her “hidden” life came forward—a strong will, intelligence and common sense, great inner courage, and yet a great deference to directors. Before she died, Marie-Rose smiled and said to the sister with her, “Your prayers are keeping me here—let me go.” She died on October 6, 184. Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher was beatified in 1982 by Pope John Paul II.

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