

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

**The beauty and the mystery of the garden
brings a feeling of serenity and peace.**

1 Kings 17:7-16

Elijah listened to God's word again and moved to Zarephath. Once again, the Lord provided for him through the kindness of a widow. And the widow and her son found blessings from the Lord for her kindness to the prophet.

Psalm 4

**When I call answer me, O my just God,
You who relieve me when I am in distress;
Have pity on me and hear my prayer.....**

Mathew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth..... What if the salt loses its taste? What if it loses its quality to flavor and to cleanse and to purify and to preserve and to stabilize?

The disciples of Jesus are called to be the "salt" of the earth! To be the "salt" is to be the cleansing, purifying, healing, preserving and stabilizing agent.

The disciples of Jesus must remain "flavoring, cleansing, purifying, healing, preserving, stabilizing" agents. What would a Christian be in the world without the qualities of Christian living?

You are the light of the world.....Your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father.....Light dispels darkness, light makes things visible, light gives warmth, light heals, light makes the way visible...

This is what the disciples are called to be for the world.....to be men and women whose presence dispels darkness, reveals the truth, encourages warmth of affection, facilitates healing of brokenness, awakens the sleeper, shows the way.....

Darkness never feels at home with light! Light shines in the darkness! Darkness cannot shine in the light! Lean toward the light that God sends.....

Let God's light dispel all the darkness inside and out and around and about.

Saint of the Day, June 9 – St. Ephrem and 12 other saints are remembered this day.

Ephrem was born in Nisibis, Mesopotamia in the year 306. He was baptized as a young man and became a renowned teacher in his native city. When the Persians took control of Nisibis, Ephrem fled to Edessa, along with many other Christians for refuge. He was ordained a deacon but declined becoming a priest. Ephrem was said to have avoided presbyterial consecration by feigning madness!

He was a poet, teacher, orator, and an ardent defender of the faith. He wrote many hymns and poems in defense of faith and against the heretics of his day. His poems and hymns reflected true doctrine of the church. He is the only Syrian recognized as a doctor of the Church. Ephrem became one of the first to introduce song into the Church's public worship as a means of instruction for the faithful. His many hymns have earned him the title "Harp of the Holy Spirit." Ephrem preferred a simple, austere life, living in a small cave overlooking the city of Edessa. It was here that he died around 373.

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