

# MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Fifth Week of Easter

**Forbearance is restraint under provocation.**

## **Acts 16:1-10**

Paul made a long missionary journey with great success. He took Timothy along as a companion. Paul has a special gift of welcoming good men from the community to accompany him on his missionary journey. He was a good pastor, recognizing and affirming the goodness and generosity of faithful people in the community and calling them to share their gifts with others.

The Church continued to grow and become stronger in faith in spite of many hardships. Paul continued to discern and respond to the movement of the Holy Spirit and proclaimed the good news in many new towns and territories.

## **Psalm 100**

**Sing joyfully to the Lord all you lands;  
Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before him with joyful song.  
Know that the Lord is God;  
He made us, His we are; His people, the flock he tends.  
The Lord is good: His kindness endures forever,  
And His faithfulness, to all generations.**

## **John 15:18-21**

Jesus warned his disciples that they can not conform to the world's standards and they would be hated for not conforming to the ways of the world. He told them that they did not belong to the world and that the world would not recognize them because they live a different standard and have a different life-style.....

The price of non-conformity is alienation. Christians throughout the centuries have experienced alienation from the world in many different ways. In fact, anyone, who chooses a different lifestyle from that of the world, at any particular time, is disliked, alienated, even hated and persecuted for it. Socrates was killed just because he challenged men to think and reason and come to certain logical conclusions for themselves.

**It is dangerous to be different. The disciples of Jesus must choose to be different, think different, see different, live different and even die different. This is the challenge that Jesus offered his disciples.**

**Saint of the Day, May 4 – St. Florian and 361 other saints are remembered this day.**

St. Florian was born around the year 250 in the ancient Roman city of Aelium Cetium, present-day Sankt Pölten, Austria. He joined the Roman Army and advanced in the ranks, rising to commander of the imperial army in the Roman province of Noricum. In addition to his military duties, he was also responsible for organizing and leading firefighting brigades. Florian organized and trained an elite group of soldiers whose sole duty was to fight fires.

During the Diocletianic Persecution of Christians, reports reached Rome that Florian was not enforcing the proscriptions against Christians in his territory. Aquilinus was sent to investigate these reports. When Aquilinus ordered Florian to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods in accordance with Roman religion, Florian refused. Florian was sentenced to be burned at the stake. Standing on the funeral pyre, Florian is reputed to have challenged the Roman soldiers to light the fire, saying "If you wish to know that I am not afraid of your torture, light the fire, and in the name of the Lord I will climb onto it." Apprehensive of his words, the soldiers did not burn Florian, but executed him by drowning him in the Enns River with a millstone tied around his neck.

His body, recovered and buried by a pious woman, was eventually removed to the Augustinian Abbey of St. Florian, near Linz. St. Florian has been regarded as a patron of Poland as well as of Linz, Upper Austria. In recent years, Saint Florian has come to be honored as the patron saint of firefighters and for protection against fire and floods.

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