

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday within the octave of Easter

There is no failure except failure to serve one's purpose.

Acts 2:14, 22-33

Peter makes very bold proclamations about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The man who denied knowing Jesus has now risen to great courage and freedom that he can now affirm who Jesus is for him and for the world. The man who was afraid to give witness to Jesus now says: "This is the Jesus God has raised up and we are his witnesses". **The risen Jesus gives us a new power and freedom to be his witnesses in the world.**

Psalm 16

**Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge,
I say to the Lord, "My Lord are you."
O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.**

Mathew 28:8-15

Mathew tells us that Mary of Magdala came to the tomb of Jesus with the other Mary. They had a tremendous experience in which an angel told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead and that his tomb was empty. They were given a mission to go and tell the disciples: "He has been raised from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him".

The women were fearful, but they loved much and with much love, they went to visit the tomb of their mater. They looked beyond their fears and their tears and they found their master and friend, Jesus, alive!

Mathew tells us, in the Gospel reading of today, that the women, "half-overjoyed and half-fearful", ran to carry the good news to the disciples. They found an urgency to run because their master was alive and they ran, carrying good news. They loved much and they ran with love.....they were blessed again..... Jesus met them in this urgency, in this "running with good news" and he gifted them again, "PEACE" and send them to the disciples with the message that he would meet them in Galilee.

There is an urgency, now more than ever before, for us, to announce the good news of the resurrection, the good news of the gift of God's peace. We are people of the resurrection, people gifted with God's peace. We must proclaim this good news.

Saint of the day, April 21 - St. Anselm of Canterbury and 11 other saints are remembered this day.

Anselm was born in or around Aosta in Upper Burgundy, now part of Italy, sometime around 1033. At the age of fifteen, Anselm wanted to enter a monastery, but was refused acceptance because of his father's opposition. Twelve years later, after careless disinterest in religion and years of worldly living, he finally fulfilled his desire to be a monk. He entered the monastery of Bec in Normandy, was elected prior three years later, and 15 years later, was unanimously chosen abbot.

Considered an original and independent thinker, Anselm was admired for his patience, gentleness, and teaching skill. Under his leadership, the Abbey of Bec became a monastic school, influential in philosophical and theological studies. During these years, at the community's request, Anselm began publishing his theological works, comparable to those of Saint Augustine. His best-known work is the book *Cur Deus Homo* ("Why God Became Man").

Against his will, Anselm was appointed archbishop of Canterbury in 1093, at the age of 60. His appointment was opposed at first by England's King William Rufus and later accepted. Rufus persistently refused to cooperate with efforts to reform the Church. Anselm finally went into voluntary exile until Rufus died in 1100. He was then recalled to England by Rufus' brother and successor, Henry I. Disagreeing fearlessly with Henry over the king's insistence on investing England's bishops, Anselm spent another three years in exile in Rome. His care and concern extended to the very poorest people. Opposing the slave trade, Anselm obtained from the national council at Westminster the passage of a resolution prohibiting the sale of human beings.

Indifferent toward religion as a young man, Anselm became one of the Church's greatest theologians and leaders. He received the title "Father of Scholasticism" for his attempt to analyze and illumine the truths of faith through the aid of reason.

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