

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Thursday, Seventh Week of Easter**

**Do the right thing, the good thing and the wise thing  
and you will find peace and serenity.**

### **Acts 22:30; 23:6-11**

Paul was arrested in Jerusalem at the close of his third journey and brought before the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin. Serious dispute arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees over their differences with Paul. Paul was blessed with courage and given the assurance that he would witness to the resurrection of Jesus in Rome just as he did in Jerusalem.

### **Psalm 16**

**I bless the lord who counsels me;  
Even in the night my heart exhorts me.  
I set the Lord ever before me;  
With him at my right hand,  
I shall not be disturbed.**

### **John 17:20-26**

Jesus, first, prayed for himself as he was preparing himself to face the cross. Then he prayed for his disciples and God's power for them. Now his prayer takes a sweep into the distant future and into distant lands and prays for all who will believe.

His prayer was that all will be one - all will experience the kind of oneness that he experienced with the Father; that all will be one in the oneness of himself and the Father; that the world will believe that the Father sent him; that the unity of all will be complete (perfect); that all will have a vision of the gift of glory that comes from the Father's love; that the Father's love will live in all.....

**The prayer of Jesus centers on abiding in him, in love, in unity, in harmony, in eternal glory - God living in us and we living in God. It is this unity, harmony, oneness that will convince the world of the truth of Christianity, the truth that Jesus came to proclaim and the place of Jesus in our life and the life of the world.**

**Only the love that abides in the hearts of men and women can tear down the barriers that keep us apart and bring us into communion with God and one another.**

**Saint of the Day, May 21 - St. Eugene de Mazenod and 30 other saints are remembered this day.**

Eugene de Mazenod was born on August 1, 1782 in Aix-en-Provence, France. Because of the French revolution, the family was forced to flee to Italy. In spite of the upheaval of the French Revolution, he entered the seminary and was ordained a priest at Amiens in 1811. Soon after his ordination, he organized missionaries to go to rural parts of Provence, instructing the people whose religious training had been disrupted for many years by the French Revolution and its aftermath. Eugene directed his ministry toward the poorest of the poor. Others joined his labors, and became the nucleus of a religious community, the Missionaries of Provence.

Eugene began the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1816, obtaining papal approval for them 10 years later. From rural preaching, they soon moved into running seminaries to improve the quality of the clergy. Their first foreign mission was in Canada in 1841; soon they were in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America.

Eugene became Bishop of Marseille, following his uncle. There he built churches, founded parishes, cared for his priests, and developed catechetics for the young. After a life dedicated to spreading the Good News, Eugene died on May 21, 1861 and was canonized in 1998.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs