

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Third Week of Advent

Forbearance is the state of endurance under confusing, difficult and trying circumstances, situations and times.

Numbers 24:2-7; 15-17

This excerpt tells us about the vision of Balaam that Israel would rise again. The Lord will bless Israel and make them a royal, noble people.....Kingdom of Israel will be established, and God will make it happen!

Pray: May your kingdom come! May your will happen in our life!

Psalm 25

**Your ways O lord, make known to me;
Teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
For you are God and my savior.**

Mathew 21: 23-27

The Jewish authorities asked Jesus about his right to do what he has been doing. They questioned him on the source of his authority. He responded to them with a question rather than with an answer. He asked them whether John's ministry came from God or from men.....whether those who were immersed into Baptism in the Jordan were responding to God's call or to their human feelings.....

The authorities were afraid to answer and so remained silent.....after some time of silence, they answered, "we don't know". They should have known, but they claimed they didn't. They remained silent and then pretended ignorance because they were afraid, and it was the safest thing to say. They played it safe!

We are constantly challenged to take a stand. There are many issues and concerns in the world that need our honest response. Fear of consequences, fear of what others may think, etc. may prompt us to play it safe. This is what the questioners of Jesus did in the present incident. This is what Pilate did at the trial of Jesus. And this is what many of us do when it comes to taking a stand on issues. Let us take a stand and make a Christian response to the many issues that we face in our world today.

Be strong! Be not afraid! Take a stand!

Saint of the day, December 16 - Ado of Vienne and 8 other saints are remembered this day.

Ado was born into a wealthy family around the year 800 and was educated at the Benedictine abbey of Ferrieres, France. Ado left all his wealth behind to become a Benedictine monk. He was very holy, which made other people so jealous, he had to leave town. He went to Rome on pilgrimage but ended up staying there for two years. Then he traveled more than 200 miles away to Ravenna. He found an old copy of the Roman Martyrology, a book that honors the people who died because of their faith in Jesus. Ado updated this book so more people could be inspired and published the new version in 858.

At Lyons he was received by the Archbishop, St. Remigius, who appointed him pastor of the Church of St. Roman near Vienne. In 860 he became Archbishop of Vienne. By word and example, he began reforming the laxity of his priests, and he gave them strict orders to instruct the laity in the necessary doctrines of the Church. His own life was a model of humility and austerity. Ado remained in Vienne until his death in 875.

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