

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Simple living includes practices that minimizes your possessions and curbs your desire for possessions.

Amos 7:10-17

Amos had courage and stood his ground, claiming no connection with a prophetic lineage. He came because “the Lord took me.....and said to me to prophesy to my people Israel...” He had to face conspiracies.....and he warned the king of what was about to happen to the kingdom.....because he found strength in his call.

Be courageous...stand your ground.....be faithful!

Psalm 19

**The law of the Lord is perfect,
Refreshing the soul;
The decree of the Lord is trustworthy,
Giving wisdom to the simple...**

Mathew 9:1-8

Jesus affirmed the faith of those who reached out to him and healed a paralyzed man.

Think of the kind of paralysis, from which, you or someone else you know, need healing and pray about it.

Why do you harbor evil in your hearts? Jesus asked.

Reflect on the tendency to harbor evil thoughts about others - may be not evil, but may be unkind, uncharitable, unloving.....

Reflect on the need to think “well” of others, to bless others, to see good in others, to bring out the good from others.....

Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven”. Isn’t that another way of saying, you are acceptable, you are welcome here, you are called to “wholeness”, you don’t have to stay in guilt and shame, you can be better.....

Saint of the day, June 30 - First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church and 16 other saints re remembered this day.

This feast first came into the General Roman Calendar in the 1969 calendar reforms. The intention of the feast was to give a general celebration of early Roman martyrs. Prior to the calendar reforms, there were many Roman martyrs commemorated in the calendar. Several of these had little or no historical evidence. This feast is a replacement for the many feasts of Roman martyrs. The placement of the feast is directly after the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, who are the principal patron saints of Rome.

There was a large Jewish population in Rome. Probably as a result of controversy between Jews and Jewish Christians, the Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome in 49-50 A.D. Many returned to Rome after Claudius' death in 54 A.D. In July of 64 A.D., more than half of Rome was destroyed by fire. Nero, who wanted to enlarge his palace, was blamed for this tragedy. He shifted the blame by accusing the Christians. Many Christians were put to death. Peter and Paul were probably among the victims.

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