

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Serenity is the tranquil balance of heart and mind.

Acts 2:36-41

Peter reminded the Jews that Jesus, whom they crucified, is Messiah and Lord. He called them to conversion, a change of heart, to Baptism, to forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Many responded to his call.

Easter reminds us of our own Baptism...we are immersed into the mystery of God's life and love...now we must live and move in this mystery!

Psalm 33

**Our soul waits for the Lord,
Who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us,
Who have put our hope in you.**

John 20:11-18

Mary of Magdala wept, standing by the tomb of Jesus. She saw two angels through her tears...behind her stood Jesus whom she did not recognize. She was afraid, she wept, she did not understand the scriptures...But she recognized the voice of Jesus, the one she loved much.

Our ability to recognize the voice of Jesus depends on how much we have listened to him, known him and loved him. We recognize the voice of the one we love!

Jesus tells Mary not to hang on to him, but to go and announce the good news to the disciples. She went and she proclaimed: "I have seen the Lord".

It is up to us, Easter people, people of the resurrection, people of hope to proclaim the good news today!

We are called to deepen our experience of the risen Lord and are sent to share the good news with the world around us!

Saint of the Day, April 7 - St. John Baptist de la Salle and 30 other saints are remembered this day.

John Baptist de la Salle was born into a wealthy family in Rheims, France on April 30, 1651. The son of aristocratic parents, he had the opportunity for an excellent education. When he had completed his classical, literary, and philosophical courses, he was sent to Paris to enter the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice. His mother died in 1671, and his father in 1672. This circumstance obliged him to leave Saint-Sulpice. He was now twenty-one, the head of the family, and as such had the responsibility of educating his four brothers and two sisters.

De la Salle completed his theological studies and was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 26 on April 9, 1678. He fully intended to work among the wealthy people of his area throughout his career. Unexpectedly, De La Salle's life changed dramatically. A promise to a dying friend to assist a group of Sisters in their work with orphan girls brought De La Salle to education. Further assistance to a friend starting a school for poor boys in Rheims solidified his true vocation as an educator, an endeavor which would consume his entire life.

By 1684, having given up his personal wealth and title in society, De La Salle brought a group of schoolmasters together as the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (also called Christian Brothers or De La Salle Brothers). The Institute was soon after recognized as an official Congregation of Religious in the Roman Catholic Church. The Congregation's primary purpose was to serve the educational needs of society, particularly among the poor.

De La Salle and his Brothers took up the cause of education vigorously. In addition to the founding of schools in 22 cities by the time of his death in 1719, De La Salle contributed significantly to the entire field of education through his writings and innovative methodology. Afflicted with asthma and rheumatism in his last years, he died at age 68 on Good Friday on April 7, 1719. On May 24, 1900, John Baptist de La Salle was declared a saint of the Roman Catholic Church. Fifty years later, Pope Pius XII declared John Baptist de La Salle the Patron Saint of Teachers.

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