

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Third Week of Lent

**The answer you are searching for does not come when your mind is busy.
The answer comes when you are quiet, still and serene.**

Hosea 14:2-10

The Prophet calls his people to turn away from sinful ways and return to the Lord. He proclaims God as a God of compassion, forgiveness and healing. Hosea says to his people that God will make them a new people and bless them with prosperity. He calls them to walk in the path of the Lord in justice and “blossom like the Lilly and the Vine”.

The season of Lent continues to invite us to listen to the call of Hosea to conversion and new life and new beginnings.

Psalms 81

**Sing joyfully to God our strength, acclaim the God of Jacob.....
Take up a melody and sound the timbrel...the pleasant harp and the lyre.....**

Mark 12:28-34

Jesus sums up the law and the prophets into “LOVE” - love with our whole being. As St. Augustine puts it, it is only in loving God with our whole being that we come to love our life, self and others in the proper way.

By loving God and walking in His ways, we do not use others to meet our needs or exploit them for our purposes. By centering on God’s love, we are liberated to love everything as God’s gifts. We come to experience ourselves as loved and gifted. We no longer need to prove our worth.

We are loved by “LOVE”. We are accepted by Total, Unconditional Acceptance.

Lent calls us to reflect on our commitments and loyalties. We don’t have to choose between loving God and others. We are to love God, ourselves and others. Commitment and loyalty to God include love of self and others. Love of God does not divide. Love heals, unifies, integrates, brings Wholeness and Holiness.

Love of God does not turn us away from the world - love opens our eyes to see the world as God’s gift to us. Love gives us a new, clearer and true vision of the world.

Saint of the day, March 13 - St. Leander of Seville and 16 other saints are remembered this day.

Leander was born at Cartagena, Spain around the year 534. St. Isidore and Fulgentius, both bishops were his brothers, and his sister, Florentina, is also numbered among the saints. Leander's own family was heavily influenced by Arianism, but he himself grew up to be a fervent Christian. He entered a monastery as a young man and spent three years in prayer and study. At the end of that tranquil period he was made a bishop. For the rest of his life he worked strenuously to fight against heresy. The death of the anti-Christian king in 586 helped Leander's cause. He and the new king worked hand in hand to restore orthodoxy and a renewed sense of morality. Leander succeeded in persuading many Arian bishops to change their loyalties. Leander died around 600.

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