

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Serenity is the calm acceptance of the unknown.

Acts 4:13-21

The priests and elders were amazed at the fearlessness and confidence of the apostles who were uneducated men. They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus. But the apostles continued to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Be strong! Stand your ground! Proclaim the good news!

Psalm 118

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
For his mercy endures for ever.
Let the house of Israel say, His mercy endures for ever.....**

Mark 16:9-15

Jesus rose from the dead and first appeared to Mary Magdalene, but the followers of Jesus refused to believe her testimony. Neither did they believe the two disciples, who had an experience of the risen Jesus, while they were on the road. Finally, Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples and rebuked them for their disbelief. Then he sent them with the mission: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation".

The disciples did not expect Jesus to be visiting Mary of Magdala after his resurrection. After all, her past was not great, and she was not one of the specially chosen apostles. She did not fit the common criteria for a visit from the world beyond!..

Be open! The Lord has his own way of surprising us! He comes to us through the most unexpected people, events, places and situations!

Jesus surprised them again by sending them with his message to fulfill his mission. Men of weak faith.....men who could not see beyond their disappointment.....men, who did not grasp all that Jesus said to them about his death and resurrection while he was among them, were sent to proclaim the good news of the resurrection!

Don't wait and don't hesitate to share and announce the good news of God's love till you have fully matured in faith!

Saint of the Day, April 11 - St. Stanislaus and 9 other saints are remembered this day.

Stanislaus was born on July 26, 1030 at Szczepanów, a village in Lesser Poland, the only son of the noble and pious Wielisław and Bogna. He was educated at a cathedral school in Gniezno, then the capital of Poland and later, in Paris. On his return to Poland, Stanislaus was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Kraków. He was subsequently made pastor of Czembocz near Cracow, canon and preacher at the cathedral, and later, vicar general.

After the Bishop's death in 1072, Stanislaus was elected his successor, but accepted the office only at the explicit command of Pope Alexander II. Stanislaus was one of the earliest native Polish bishops. He also became a ducal advisor and had some influence on Polish politics.

Stanislaus' major accomplishments included bringing papal legates to Poland, and reestablishment of a metropolitan see in Gniezno. Stanislaus encouraged King Bolesław to establish Benedictine monasteries to aid in the Christianization of Poland. During an expedition against the Grand Duchy of Kiev, Stanislaus became involved in the political situation of Poland. Known for his outspokenness, he aimed his attacks at the evils of the peasantry and the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II.

The king first excused himself, then made a show of penance, then relapsed into his old ways. Stanislaus continued his open opposition, in spite of charges of treason and threats of death and finally excommunicated the king. Enraged, the latter ordered soldiers to kill the bishop. When they refused, the king killed Stanislaus with his own hands on April 11, 1079, in Kraków, Poland. He is remembered with Saints Thomas More and Thomas Becket for vigorous opposition to the evils of an unjust government.

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