

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Seventh Week of Easter

God's steadfast love and faithfulness are tenacious.

(Psalms 86, 145, and 103)

Acts 20:28-38

Paul entrusted the care of the Church at Ephesus to the elders and called them to “keep careful watch....and shepherd the church! He warned them about those who would distort the truth. He prayed for them and with them and expressed deep felt affection for them before he bid farewell to them, knowing that he would never see them again...

Cast your cares into the hands of the Lord!

Psalm 68

**You kingdoms of the earth sing to God,
Chant praise to the Lord,
Who rides on the heights of the ancient heavens,
Behold his voice resounds, the voice of power:
“Confess the power of God!”**

John 17:11-19

Jesus prayed for the safety and protection of his disciples. He knew that he was leaving them in the world. He knew that they didn't belong to the world's standards, that they had to live a different life style and that they would face difficult situations.

Be safe! Pray for those who are unsafe to be with and pray for those living in unsafe conditions! Pray for those who are exposed to difficult situations!

Jesus prayed that the disciples would be happy...to its fullness. He said to them that all said and did was to bring them joy to its fullness.

Remember those who do not experience joy in life. Pray with those who are sad, lonely, depressed, unhappy.....

Jesus prayed that the disciples may be consecrated in truth. To “consecrate” means to empower a person with the necessary qualities of mind and heart and character to fulfill his/her mission in life.

Pray that you will be empowered with the necessary qualities of character to fulfill the mission God has given you!

Saint of the Day, May 24 - Feast of Mary Help of Christians and 16 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint John Chrysostom was the first person to use this Marian title in the year 345 as a devotion to the Virgin Mary. In 1572, during the expansion of the Islamic Ottoman Empire intended to invade Christian Europe, Pope Pius V invoked Christian armies and its victory achieved was consequently attributed to the intercession of Mary under this title.

Saint Don Bosco and Saint Vincent Pallotti also promoted Marian devotion under this title. Don Bosco built a huge basilica in her honor in 1868 and founded a religious congregation for women, under the title of, "The Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians". The title of Mary Help of Christians is associated with the defense of Christian Europe, the north of Africa and the Middle East from non-Christian peoples during the Middle Ages.

The feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians as we have it today, was instituted by Pope Pius VII. When Napoleon returned to Paris and Murat became king of Naples in March 1815, Pope Pius VII fled to Savona. After the Congress of Vienna and the battle of Waterloo, the pope returned to Rome in July 1815. To give thanks to God and Our Lady, he declared May 24, the anniversary of his return to be henceforth the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

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