

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Simplify your life by learning to live frugally...buying less,
wanting less and hoarding less.**

Jeremiah 31:1-7

Jeremiah continued to bring hope to a people whom he described as suffering from an “incurable wound and grievous bruise”. He assured his people that the Lord has loved them with “age-old love”. The lord will deliver and restore his people. So be confident and “shout with joy”.

Response: Jeremiah 31:10-13

**Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
Proclaim it on distant coasts and say,
He, who scattered Israel, now gathers them together,
He guards them as a shepherd gathers his flock.**

Mathew 15:21-28

This excerpt must be understood in light of the friction that continued to exist between Christians from Jewish background and pagan converts. It was basically a tension between classic Jewish exclusionism and the universal will of salvation of all people, revealed in Jesus.

This excerpt teaches us that faith breaks down barriers between Jews and Gentiles and in fact faith breaks down all barriers. “Woman, you have great faith. Your wish will come to pass”, Jesus said to the Canaanite woman.

Let your faith make you free to love all people.

Be open-minded! Cultivate respect for all. Break down barriers that keep you apart from other people and cultures and religious traditions.

Saint of the Day, August 3 - St. Peter Julian Eymard and 11 other saints are remembered this day

Peter Julian Eymard was born on February 4, 1811 at La Mure, Isère in the French Alps. When his mother died in 1828 Julian resolved to enter the novitiate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and, despite his father's opposition, did so in June 1829. His first

attempt as a seminarian ended because of serious illness. Throughout his life, he suffered from poor health, particularly ‘weakness of the lungs’ and migraine headaches.

After his father's death in 1831, he succeeded, with the help of his former superior, in gaining admission to the major seminary of the Grenoble diocese. On July 20, 1834, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Grenoble and was assigned as assistant pastor at the town of Chatte, and three years later, appointed pastor of Mount Saint-Eynard. He was dissatisfied with parish work and decided to join the Marists (the Society of Mary). On August 20, 1837, he entered the Society of Mary seminary at Lyon and made his profession in February 1840. He worked with lay organizations promoting devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Eucharist, particularly in the Forty Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He rose to the position of Provincial of the Society at Lyon in 1844.

After praying at the shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere on January 21, 1851, Peter Julian Eymard moved to establish a Marist community dedicated to eucharistic adoration. However, his desire to establish a separate fraternity promoting adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was not seen as part of the charism of the Marists. His superiors disapproved, transferring him to the Marist College at La Seyne-sur-Mer. Eventually, he resolved to leave the Society of Mary to begin his new religious congregation with the diocesan priest Raymond de Cuers. On May 13, 1856, the Paris bishops consented to his plans for a ‘Society of the Blessed Sacrament’. After many trials, Peter Julian Eymard and Raymond de Cuers established public exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris on January 6, 1857.

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament began working with children in Paris to prepare them to receive their First Communion. It also reached out to non-practicing Catholics, inviting them to repent and begin receiving Communion again. Father Eymard established a common rule for the members of the society and worked toward papal approval. A second community was established in Marseille in 1859, and a third in Angers in 1862. Pope Pius IX granted a Decree of Approbation in June 1863. Peter Julian Eymard died on August 1, 1868 and was canonized on December 9, 1962 by Pope John XXIII.

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