

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, First Week of Lent

Those who practice forbearance will reap a harvest of peace and joy.

Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Obeying God's law is what makes us the "People of God". Moses tells his people that they are a people of the covenant, that they have an "agreement" with God and that God has an "agreement with them. Therefore they must learn to "listen" to God's voice and remain faithful just as God is faithful.

Learn to walk in God's ways! You are a people sacred to the Lord.

Psalm 119

**Happy the person whose way is blameless,
who walks in the law of the Lord.
Happy are they, who observe his decrees,
who seek him with all their heart.**

Mathew 5:43-48

Mathew continues to bring us very high ideals that Jesus placed before his disciples. Your spirituality must rise above that of the scribes and Pharisees. Your life must be more virtuous than the pagans and do more than the pagans do.

Learn to lead noble and virtuous lives. Let your character reflect virtue.

Your love will prove that you are "sons of the heavenly Father". The heavenly Father is impartial to those who love him and to those who do not love him.

Let your love embrace all people – even those who do not love you!

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect! To be perfect is to be what God made you to be, do what God wants you to do and fulfill the plan, "the will" God has for you.

Listen and keep searching for God's will for you! Be and become discerning people!

Saint of the Day, February 24 – Blessed Luke Belludi and 8 other saints are remembered this day.

In 1220, Saint Anthony was preaching conversion to the inhabitants of Padua when a young nobleman, Luke Belludi, came up to him and humbly asked to receive the habit of the followers of Saint Francis. At the age of twenty, he was received into the Order of Friars Minor, the Franciscans, by Saint Francis himself. A few years later, Friar Luke met for the first time Saint Anthony of Padua. Thereafter Luke served as an assistant to the great Franciscan preacher on his missions across northern Italy. In 1231, he had the privilege of assisting Anthony at his death.

Friar Luke was appointed guardian of the Friars Minor in the city of Padua. In 1239, the city fell into the hands of its enemies. Nobles were put to death, the mayor and council were banished, the great university of Padua gradually closed, and the church dedicated to Saint Anthony was left unfinished. Luke himself was expelled from the city but secretly returned.

As the crisis in Padua continued, Luke would go to pray at the tomb of Saint Anthony following the recitation of the night office. While doing this one night, Luke and another Franciscan with him heard a voice from the tomb assuring them that their prayers for Padua were soon to be answered. The city was liberated not long afterward. It was Friar Luke who supervised the construction of the Padua basilica that now enshrines Saint Anthony's body. He died on February 17, 1286

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