

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Seventh Week of Easter

**Decide that wherever you are, is the best place there is
and you will find peace and serenity.**

Acts 20:17-27

In this excerpt from Acts, we meet Paul who has come to a sense of total dedication, putting no value on his own personal life, surrendering totally to the mission that he has come to love. As he says, "I put no value on my life if only I can finish my race and complete the service to which I have been assigned by the Lord Jesus, bearing witness to the Gospel of God's Grace".

Be faithful to your calling and bear witness to the Good news of God's Grace!

Psalm 68

**Blessed day by day be the Lord,
who bears our burdens,
God who is our salvation, God is a saving God for us;
The Lord, my lord, controls the passage ways of death.**

John 17:1-11

In this chapter, we read the prayer of Jesus, first for himself that he may glorify the Father, then for his chosen disciples and for all who will believe in him and his word that they may have eternal life. Jesus remained faithful to the mission that the father gave him and fulfilled that mission. He says that his disciples too have remained faithful to God's word. He prayed to the father that he would keep his disciples faithful since they have to continue his mission in the world.

He describes eternal life as knowing the only true God and his son Jesus. To know is to become one with what is known and not a gathering of information or ideas or concepts. To know, in the sense used here, is to become intimate, to become one with, to enter into that which is known. In this sense, eternal life is to enter into the mystery of God's life and love, to be "baptized", to be immersed into God's Life.

This week, make the prayer of Jesus your prayer...pray for being more fully immersed into the eternal, into the mystery of God's life and love...pray for grace and courage to be faithful in completing your mission in life...

Saint of the Day, May 19 – St. Celestine and 17 other saints are remembered this day

According to tradition, Pietro di Morrone was born in 1215 in the town of Sant'Angelo Limosano, in the Kingdom of Sicilia (Sicily). After his father's death he began working in the fields. He became a Benedictine monk at Faifoli in the Diocese of Benevento when he was 17. He showed an extraordinary disposition toward asceticism and solitude, and in 1239 retired to a solitary cavern on the mountain Morrone, hence his name (Peter of Morrone). Five years later he left this retreat, and went with two companions to a similar cave on the even more remote Mountain of Maiella in the Abruzzi region of central Italy, where he lived as strictly as possible according to the example of John the Baptist.

In 1244 he founded the order, which was eventually named after him, the Celestines (the name he took when he became Pope). A new religious community was formed, and Pietro gave them a rule formulated in accordance with his own practices which was eventually approved by Pope Gregory X, making it a branch of the Benedictines and following the rule of Saint Benedict, but adding to it additional severities and privations.

In July 1294, three eminent dignitaries, accompanied by an immense multitude of monks and laymen, ascended the mountain, and announced that Pietro had been chosen as the new Pope by a unanimous vote of the Sacred College and humbly begged him to accept the honor. Such an event has never happened in the history of the Church. Reluctantly accepting this honor, Pietro took the name of Celestine V.

Pope Celestine made many serious mistakes in five short months. Troubled by the many mistakes and his desire for the ascetic and contemplative life, Celestine began to think of resigning as Pope. This had never happened in the history of the Church. On December 13, 1294, Celestine announced his resignation as Pope and proclaimed that the cardinals were free to proceed to a new election.

Celestine was not allowed to become a hermit once again. The new Pope Boniface VIII imprisoned him in the castle of Fumone near Ferentino in Lazio, attended by two monks of his order, where Pietro died on May 19, 1296.

Celestine is a saint who will always be remembered for the unique manner in which he was elected Pope, for his spectacular incompetence in that office, and for the distinction of being the first pontiff ever to have resigned.

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