

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

We should meet abuse by forbearance.

(Mahatma Gandhi)

Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22

Hosea shares his vision of Yahweh leading his people to the desert to reestablish the covenant. Yahweh will espouse Israel in justice, in love, in mercy and in fidelity. Israel will once again know God as the Lord of everlasting Love and Faithfulness.

Pray: Father, teach me to trust in your everlasting love and leave my life in your hands.

Psalm 145

**Every day will I bless you,
And I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
His greatness is unsearchable.**

Mathew 9:18-26

There are two miracles in this excerpt from the Gospel of Mathew: the healing of the ruler's daughter and the healing of the woman with hemorrhage. Each of them came with a different quality of faith: the ruler came desperate, having tried everything and the woman, came believing that even touching the garment of Jesus would bring healing. The amazing thing is: they were accepted, with the kind of faith with which they came - with what they brought, just the way they were, without conditions.

Turn to the Lord with whatever faith you have...inadequate faith, little faith, lots of faith...size of a mustard seed.....Pray: Lord, increase my faith!

No matter, how imperfectly we come, His love and his arms are open to us in welcome embrace.

We do not wait until our motivations, our faith and our theology are perfect. We come just as we are.

Saint of the day, July 8 - Saint Gregory Grassi and Companions (120) and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Gregory Grassi was born in Italy, on December 13, 1833. At the age of 15, he took the Franciscan habit in the Friary of Montiano, Romagna, with the name Gregory. His solemn profession was made one year later, on 14 December. He was then sent to Bologna to do his seminary studies and was ordained priest on August 17, 1856. Then he was sent to Rome for further training to prepare for his mission to China.

In 1860 Gregory Grassi was assigned to Taiyuan, China, where he was appointed Mission Promoter, Director of the mission orphanage, and choirmaster at the seminary. In 1876 he was chosen as the Coadjutor Vicar Apostolic for the Apostolic Vicariate of Shansi. After he assumed authority over the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Shansi on September 6, 1891, he established a novitiate to provide access to Franciscan life for the Chinese of all four vicariates in Shanxi and a rest home for overworked missionaries.

Christian missionaries have often gotten caught in the crossfire of wars against their own countries. When the governments of Britain, Germany, Russia, and France forced substantial territorial concessions from the Chinese in 1898, anti-foreign sentiment grew very strong among many Chinese people. When the short but bloody Boxer Rebellion broke out in Peking in June 1900 and the Empress Dowager Cixi issued the Imperial Decree of declaration of war against foreign powers, Gregory Grassi was urged to flee, but decided to stay.

At the beginning of July, the Governor of Shanxi, Yuxian, ordered the arrest of the European missionaries in the province. Throughout China during the Boxer Uprising, 5 bishops, 50 priests, 2 brothers, 15 sisters and 40,000 Chinese Christians were killed. Gregory Grassi and companions were among the 120 martyrs canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

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