MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Thirty Second Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is not just an escape,
but a precursor to acceptance, courage, wisdom, and change.

Titus 3:1-7

Paul directed Titus to encourage the community to respect and be "loyally subject" to civil authorities reminding them that all authority comes from God. He challenged them to practice virtues that reflect their noble calling, to take honest employment, to be forbearing and courteous toward all.

Cultivate virtues that reflect your noble calling.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall; not want.
In verdant pastures he give me repose,
Beside restful waters he leads me;
He refreshes my soul….

Luke 17:11-19

Ten lepers asked Jesus for healing. Jesus sent them to the priests, and they were healed on the way. One of them returned to give thanks. Jesus said to him, "your faith has made you well". Jesus always had a way of bringing out the best in others. He affirmed and appreciated the faith and the gratitude of this leper, who under all circumstances would never have been noticed by anyone. Jesus used this opportunity to teach his followers to be grateful disciples.

Gratitude is the memory of the heart. Gratefulness is an attitude, the quality of a person and not a word or phrase said in polite gesture.

Look beyond what you see. See goodness beyond appearances. Bring out the best in others and from all circumstances in life. Be grateful!

Saint of the Day, November 11 - Saint Martin of Tours and 15 other saints are remembered this day

Martin was born in 316 or 336 in Savaria in the Diocese of Pannonia, Hungary. His father was a senior officer (tribune) in the Roman army. At the age of ten he attended the Church against the wishes of his parents and became a catechumen. At the age of fifteen, Martin was required to follow his father into the cavalry corps of the Roman military. Scholars think he served as part of the emperor's guard.

As a young soldier, Martin encountered a beggar who was unclothed and it was very cold. Martin removed his cloak, cut it in half, gave this half to the beggar and dressed himself with the other half. That night, Martin had a vision in which Christ spoke to him, "Martin, a mere catechumen has clothed me." About the age of 20, Martin made clear to his superiors that he would no longer fight, following his formed Christian conscience.

“I am a soldier for Christ. It is not lawful for me to fight”. With these words Martin of Tours identified himself forever as a saint of peace before the emperor. Today, he would be called a conscientious objector. Martin laid down his weapons and spent the rest of his life serving Christ with great compassion for the poor and the suffering people as the bishop of the city of Tours. Martin was so loved as a man of compassion and peace that he was the first person to be honored as saint who was not a martyr.

In 371, the city of Tours needed a new bishop and the people decided to call Martin to the office. Martin did not want the job so the people decided to trick him into the office. The people insisted he was needed to administer to someone sick. So, he came out as quickly as he could. When he learned it was a trick to make him a bishop, he tried to hide. He was quickly discovered and the people called him forward to be ordained to the office of Bishop. Even though he did not really want the office, he was ordained - and he became a holy and hardworking Bishop.

Martin was a good pastor and shepherd of the people. As a Bishop, he established a system of parishes to manage his diocese. He made a point to visit each parish at least once per year. Yet, he longed for more prayer and wanted to pursue a monastic life. In the year 372 Martin established an abbey at Marmoutier so he could retreat there and live as a monk with the many disciples he had attracted.

Martin died in Candes-Saint-Martin, Gaul in 397. Saint Martin is the patron of the poor, soldiers, conscientious objectors, tailors, and winemakers. He commonly appears on horseback and is shown cutting his cloak in half with a sword.

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