

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Sixth Week of Easter

**Love “bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.”**

(1 Corinthians 13:7)

Acts 18:23-28

Paul continued his travels encouraging and reassuring his disciples in the many towns that he had preached. In this excerpt, we read about Apollos, a very spiritual man who knew the teachings of John the Baptist and had sound knowledge of Scriptures, teaching people about Jesus. “Aquilla and Priscilla took him home and explained to him God’s new way in great detail”. This is another example of the “welcoming character” of the early church and the sense of hospitality that strengthened the early Church.

Be encouraging and supportive...Be hospitable and welcoming!

Psalms 47

**All you peoples, clap your hands,
Shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the Lord, the most high, the awesome,
Is the great king over all the earth.**

John 16:23-28

In this excerpt, we read about Jesus teaching the disciples to pray and pray with confidence... “Ask and you shall receive..... that your joy may be full”. We read about Jesus assuring his disciples that the Father loves them and that the Father would give them anything they ask in his name..... Jesus said, “I do not say that I will ask the Father for you, because the Father himself loves you.....” You can go to God because he loves.... you can ask God because he loves you....God will respond to you because he loves you.....

Asking God is an act of trust that God has power over our lives - that God loves us so much that we can trust him with our lives - our lives’ concerns, needs, etc. We place ourselves in the hands of Our Father who loves us and knows our needs more than we know ourselves.

We stand before him with open arms to receive or to let go. We surrender ourselves to him and remain open to receive His Gifts. God has more ways to answer our prayers than simply saying “Yes” and granting our wish.

Saint of the Day, May 11 - St. Benedict and 15 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Benedict was born into a noble family in Norcia on March 2, 480. After attending primary schools in Norcia, Benedict went to Rome to broaden his knowledge of literature and law. However, since he was probably disgusted by the dissolute lifestyle of his peers and by Rome's difficult political situation, he retired to Affile with a group of priests.

At Affile, Benedict withdrew from social life and took shelter in a cave in the ruins of Nero's village, near Subiaco, where he began to live as a hermit. Immersed in solitude, his only contact with the outside world was with a monk called Romanus, whose monastery was nearby. He gave Benedict a monk's habit and provided for his spiritual and material needs. Three solitary years followed. Some shepherds befriended Benedict. They began to follow his teachings and the pastoral and apostolic principles of the Benedictine Order took root. Benedict is considered the father of western monasticism.

Benedict moved from a noble family to a hermitage and from the hermitage to a monastery – from an affluent life to the quiet life of the hermitage and from hermitage to life in a community. He taught people a way to use prayer and Christ-like attitudes to overcome their fears and mistrust of each other. He taught his followers, nuns and monks, to live a life of prayer and solitude and to see hospitality as the quality of their community life.

Benedict died on March 21, 547. He foresaw his coming death, informing his close and faraway disciples that the end was near. Six days before dying, he had the grave which he was to share with his deceased sister Saint Scholastica, opened. Then, completely exhausted, he asked to be taken into his oratory where, after taking his last Holy Communion, he died supported by his monks. He was Canonized in 1220 by Pope Honorius III

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