

MORNING PRAYER

Thursday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

The day is always his, who works in it with serenity and great aims.

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9

Hosea speaks of the love God has for his people. God's love is the basis and the source of Israel's redemption. Hosea says God's love can NOT destroy - only give life!

May your love be life-giving!

Psalm 80

**Once again, O Lord of hosts,
Look down from heaven and see:
Take care of this vine
And protect what your tight hand has planed.....**

Mathew 10:7-15

Jesus instructed his disciples to go out and proclaim the presence of God's Kingdom. They were to do everything - all their service, all their ministry - to proclaim the presence of God's Kingdom. The disciples were given a God-directed mission and not a self-fulfilling, self-directed mission. There was urgency about fulfilling this mission because the mission was the proclamation of the presence of the Kingdom of God – it was about the presence of the kingdom and not about some future reality.

So disciples of Jesus were called to live a simple life, travel light and not be burdened with stuff that weighs them down..... They were not sent out to acquire, to collect, to possess - but to give...the gift you have received, give as a gift.

Disciples of Jesus were and still are called to be bearers of good news, of peace, of God's forgiving love, of God's healing presence.....and never to become a burden to others!

They were to stay close to.....be in touch with "worthy" people, good, decent and noble people and reach out to all.

Saint of the Day, July 9 - St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions and 52 other saints are remembered this day.

Augustine Zhao Rong and his 119 companions, are the Martyr Saints of China. The 87 Chinese Catholics and 33 Western missionaries, from the mid-17th century to 1930, were martyred because of their ministry and, in some cases, for their refusal to apostatize. Many died in the Boxer Rebellion, in which anti-colonial peasant rebels slaughtered 30,000 Chinese converts to Christianity along with missionaries and other foreigners.

Christianity arrived in China by way of Syria in the 600s. Depending on China's relations with the outside world, Christianity over the centuries was free to grow or was forced to operate secretly. The 120 martyrs in this group died between 1648 and 1930. Eighty-seven of them were born in China, and were children, parents, catechists, or laborers, ranging in age from nine years to 72. This group includes four Chinese diocesan priests. The 33 foreign-born martyrs were mostly priests or women religious, especially from the Order of Preachers, the Paris Foreign Mission Society, the Friars Minor, Society of Jesus, Salesians of Don Bosco and Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Augustine Zhao Rong was a Chinese soldier who accompanied Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse of the Paris Foreign Mission Society to his martyrdom in Beijing. Not long after his baptism, Augustine was ordained as a diocesan priest. He was martyred in 1815. Beatified in groups at various times, these 120 martyrs were canonized together in Rome on October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

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