

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Sixth Week of Easter

In the midst of conflicts, tensions and chaos, keep stillness within you.

Acts 16:22-34

Paul and Silas were arrested, flogged, chained to a stake and kept under maximum security. The two kept praying through the night. They and the jailer experienced a tremendous miracle as Paul and Silas were freed and led out of prison through a wide open gate. The Jailer accepted Jesus, welcomed Paul and Silas into his home and his whole household was baptized.

Be open to the good news. And take the good news home and share it with others!

Psalm 138

**I will give thanks to you O Lord, with all my heart,
For you have heard the words of my mouth;
In the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple,
And give thanks to your name.**

John 16:5-11

The disciples of Jesus were confused, surprised, bewildered and grief-stricken at hearing that their master was going to leave them. Jesus comforted them saying that it was for the best. He had to go, so that he could send the Holy Spirit as a gift from the Father.

Be sensitive! Be compassionate! Reflect on the compassion of Jesus for the bewildered, confused disciples!

Jesus said that this gift of the Spirit, which he would send from the father, would do many things for his disciples that they themselves would be unable to do. The Spirit will convict them of sin, convince them of righteousness and convince them of judgment. It is the Spirit that helps us to know when we are wrong and when we have sinned. It is the spirit that helps us become convinced of what is good and right and just. And it is the spirit that helps us judge and condemn and defeat evil in the world.

Be open to the Holy Spirit! Be docile to the Holy Spirit! Listen to the Spirit whispering from within!

Saint of the Day, May 12 – Saint Leopold Mandic and 12 other saints are remembered this day.

Leopold was born Bogdan Ivan Mandić on May 12, 1866 in the coastal town of Herceg Novi, today part of Montenegro. He was the twelfth child of Dragica Zarević and Petar Antun Mandić, owner of an Adriatic fishing fleet. He grew up in the orbit of a community of Capuchin friars based in the Province of Venice who had served in his town for two centuries. Physically malformed and delicate, he grew to a height of only 4'5", with a clumsy walk and afflicted by stuttering.

He felt called to the Franciscan way of life, took the habit of Franciscan Capuchins, took the religious name of Leopold of Castelnuovo, and was ordained a priest on September 20, 1890. He could not speak loudly enough to preach publicly. For many years he also suffered from severe arthritis, poor eyesight, and a stomach ailment. For several years Leopold taught Patrology, the study of the Church Fathers, to the clerics of his province, but he is best known for his work in the confessional, where he sometimes spent 13-15 hours a day. Several bishops sought out his spiritual advice.

Leopold's dream was to go to the Orthodox Christians and work for the reunion of Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy. His health never permitted it. Leopold often renewed his vow to go to the Eastern Christians; the cause of unity was constantly in his prayers. Leopold lived most of his life in Padua, died on July 30, 1942, and was canonized in 1982.

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