

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is the calm that comes from knowing you are enough.

Hosea 10:1-3; 7-8; 12

Hosea shared his vision of God breaking down and destroying the pillars and altars and sacred places which Israel had set up because they had become unfaithful to God and turned to false gods. He told his people that it was time to seek the Lord and keep seeking “till he come and rain down justice upon you”.

Keep seeking the Lord and His ways...never stop seeking!

Psalms 105

**Sing to him, sing his praise,
Proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
Glory in his holy name;
Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord!**

Matthew 10:1-7

Jesus saw a rich harvest and the need for laborers to gather in the harvest. And he sent out an extraordinary mixture of very ordinary men with the most profound message: “The Kingdom of God is at hand”.

**In Jesus, the ordinary became extraordinary and the extraordinary became ordinary!
The disciples of Jesus were and still are men and women on the move, on a journey with a mission to share the good news of the presence of God’s kingdom.**

In Jesus strangers and enemies were transformed into a people of “communion”, of “fellowship”. Jesus began with a small group – the message had to be lived out in fellowship. The way of the Pharisees was separation; the way of Jesus was fellowship.

People who ordinarily would not have stayed together became one in the spirit and mission of Jesus.

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.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs