

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Fifth Week of Easter

**Being purposeful is the starting point of all achievements
and accomplishments.**

Acts 15-1:6

The number of Christians continued to increase and many gentile converts joined the community. Some converted Pharisees demanded that the gentile converts follow the Mosaic Law. This created dissension in the early Church. Paul and Barnabas were delegated to consult the apostles and the elders on this matter.

Psalm 122

**I rejoiced because they said to me,
“We will go up to the house of the Lord.”
And now we have set foot
Within your gates O Jerusalem.**

John 15:1-8

**I am the vine, you are the branches...remain in me, you will be fruitful...ou can do
nothing without me...**

Fruitfulness of the branches depends on their union, connection with the vine. The branches become fruitful only in the vine. The vine itself doesn't bear the fruit. Vine bears the branches and feeds the branches, and the branches bear the fruit.

Abide in Christ....be united with him...live in his spirit.....you will bear much fruit!

**Be constantly fed by the “word” of Jesus and the “bread” of life and “cup” of
compassion that Jesus offers. You will be fruitful.**

Fruitfulness also depends on the branches being trimmed, pruned and cleaned. We could rephrase it to read “fruitfulness depends on being tamed, disciplined, controlled, directed, channeled, etc. – wild branches do not yield...they become unyielding!”

**Be open and docile to the Holy Spirit! Be open to being pruned, trimmed, cleansed,
disciplined, tamed.....be docile to the pruning process of the heavenly father...wild
branches become unyielding! Be yielding...Be fruitful!**

Saint of the Day, May 21 -) St. Eugene de Mazenod and 30 other saints are remembered this day.

Eugene de Mazenod was born on August 1, 1782 in Aix-en-Provence, France. Because of the French revolution, the family was forced to flee to Italy. In spite of the upheaval of the French Revolution, he entered the seminary and was ordained a priest at Amiens in 1811. Soon after his ordination, he organized missionaries to go to rural parts of Provence, instructing the people whose religious training had been disrupted for many years by the French Revolution and its aftermath. Eugene directed his ministry toward the poorest of the poor. Others joined his labors, and became the nucleus of a religious community, the Missionaries of Provence.

Eugene began the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1816, obtaining papal approval for them 10 years later. From rural preaching, they soon moved into running seminaries to improve the quality of the clergy. Their first foreign mission was in Canada in 1841; soon they were in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America.

Eugene became Bishop of Marseille, following his uncle. There he built churches, founded parishes, cared for his priests, and developed catechetics for the young. After a life dedicated to spreading the Good News, Eugene died on May 21, 1861 and was canonized in 1998.

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