

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, First Week of Advent

**Your purpose in life is to find your purpose
and give your whole heart and soul to it.**

(Buddha)

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

Isaiah shared with his people his vision of a time of favor from the Lord: The Lord will make his people prosperous again; he will be gracious to the people who cry out to him; he will provide for the needs of his people; he will show the way that can be trusted; he will heal the wounds of his people....He will not hide from his people. So, be happy, rejoice...you will have no reason to weep!

Share the vision of Isaiah for a new world order and pray for the establishment of a world of peace, justice, and prosperity for all.

Psalms 147

**Praise the Lord, for he is good;
Sing praise to our God, for he is gracious;
It is fitting to praise him.
The Lord builds Jerusalem;
The dispersed of Israel, he gathers.....**

Matthew 9:35 – 10:1, 6-8

This excerpt begins with a summary of what Jesus has been doing: proclaimed good news, taught the values of the kingdom and healed the sick. Jesus looked at the crowd with compassion. He saw a rich harvest and the need for laborers to gather in the harvest. The spiritual leaders, at the time of Jesus, saw sinners to be condemned, Gentiles who do not follow the law, tax gatherers who were traitors to the nation, etc. But Jesus saw a rich harvest.....people to be gathered in and not kept out or destroyed.

Look beyond what you see! Be positive, optimistic about you and the world around you! See the goodness of God everywhere and in all people!

Jesus sent out his disciples, an extraordinary mixture of very ordinary men with the most profound message: "The Kingdom of God is at hand". They were sent to bring good news, heal the sick.... share the gift they had received freely and joyfully.

Bring the good news of Jesus to someone today.....share your gifts with others.

Saint of the Day, December 6 - St. Nicholas and 7 other saints are remembered this day.

Tradition tells us that Nicholas was born on March 15, 270 in Myra, Asia Minor (now Turkey), and died on December 6, 343. Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas. The earliest accounts of his life were written centuries after his death and contain many legendary elaborations.

According to a legend, when Nicholas was a baby and his parents brought him to Church to be baptized, he jumped eagerly into the water. A story is told about a man who was so poor that he could no longer buy food for his family. He was going to sell his daughters into slavery so they wouldn't starve. Bishop Nicholas found out about this. So, at night he tossed three bags of gold into their house through a window.

Other early stories tell of him calming a storm at sea, saving three innocent soldiers from wrongful execution, and chopping down a tree possessed by a demon. In his youth, he is said to have made a pilgrimage to Egypt and the Palestine area. Shortly after his return, he became Bishop of Myra. He was later cast into prison during the persecution of Diocletian but was released after the accession of Constantine.

Although we know very little about the historical Nicholas, the legends speak of his generosity as well as eagerness to follow the way of Jesus. He challenges us to reflect on how eager we are today to plunge into the waters of Baptism and follow the way of Jesus and how generous we are with the many blessings we have received from the Lord.

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