

MORNING PRAYER

Monday, Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time

God's love for us is so strong, so unconditional, so steadfast and so unfailing that God is always there in us, for us, with us, around us...always loving us and calling us to love!

Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah show wisdom, knowledge and prudence which surpassed that of the magicians of King Nebuchadnesar of Babylon. The source of their wisdom was their fidelity to God and God's ways, even at great risk to their own lives.

Be faithful to God and God's ways even when it costs much.

Daniel 3:52-56

**Blessed are you O Lord, the God of our fathers,
Praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;
And blessed is your holy and glorious name,
Praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.**

Luke 21:1-4

In the court of the women in the temple, there were thirteen collection boxes known as the trumpets. They were shaped like trumpets with the narrow part at the top and the wider part at the foot. Each was assigned to offerings for a different purpose - for the wood that was burned for sacrifice, for the incense burned on the altar, for the upkeep of the vessels and so on. It is into these that the rich were flinging their coins. Among them was a poor widow who put in "two lepta". A lepton was the smallest of coins; the name means "the thin one".

Jesus said, this "thin one" outvalued all the other offerings because it was all she had. She gave from her want and not from her surplus. She was in her gift, and she was her gift.

The value of any gift is in the spirit in which it is given and the sacrifice which it involves and above all the presence of the giver in the gift. The gift must carry something of the giver. It is not the size or the weight or the shape or the color or glitter or the glamour, but the presence of the giver in the gift that makes the gift a GIFT.

Saint of the day, November 27 - Saint Francesco Antonio Fasani and 39 other saints are remembered this day.

Francesco was born Giovanniello Fasani on August 6, 1681 in Lucera, in the Province of Foggia, then part of the Kingdom of Naples. He began his studies at the Conventual friary in his town and there entered the Order, taking the religious name Francesco and Antonio. After his ordination to the priesthood, he taught philosophy to younger friars, served as guardian of his friary, and later became provincial minister. When his term of office ended, Francesco became master of novices and finally pastor in his hometown.

In his various ministries, he was loving, devout, and penitential. He was a sought-after confessor and preacher. One witness at the canonical hearings regarding Francesco's holiness testified, "In his preaching he spoke in a familiar way, filled as he was with the love of God and neighbor; fired by the Spirit, he made use of the word and deed of holy Scripture, stirring his listeners and moving them to do penance." Francesco showed himself a loyal friend of the poor, never hesitating to seek from benefactors what was needed.

At his death in Lucera in 1742, children ran through the streets crying out, "The saint is dead! The saint is dead!" Francesco was canonized in 1986.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs