

# MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, First Week of Lent

**Trust in God's abiding presence with us helps us to be calm and serene wherever we may be and whatever we may be doing, even in troublesome times.**

## **Esther 12:14-16, 23-25**

Esther, a Jewess, became queen of Persia. King Ahasuerus had fixed the date for the execution of the Jews in the kingdom in a single day. Esther, feeling intensely the pain of her people, pours out the anguish of her soul and that of her people to God in prayer: Be mindful of us O Lord.....she prayed. Esther won favor with God and with God's favor the king and the Jews were saved.

**Reflect on the providential care of God for God's people. Reflect on your own urgent need to pour out your heart and the heart of your people to God!**

## **Psalms 138**

**The Lord will complete what he has done for me;  
Your kindness O Lord, endures for ever;  
Forsake not the work of your hands.**

## **Matthew 7:7-12**

"The heavenly father will give good things to those who ask him...." and will not give anything dangerous or injurious to you.....Asking God is an act of trust that God has power over our lives - that God loves us so much that we can trust him with our lives, our lives' concerns, needs, problems, etc.

**We place ourselves in the hands of Our Father who knows our needs more than we do ourselves. We stand before him with open arms to receive or to let go. We surrender ourselves to him and remain open to receive His Gifts.**

Shortly before bed time, a little boy lost one of his favorite marbles, a large, colorful one. After searching for it unsuccessfully, the boy approached his father in tears, saying "Can I pray and ask God to help me find my marble?" The father agreed and they both closed their eyes and prayed. The boy prayed with great faith and the father joined him in his prayer: "Dear God, help me find my favorite marble". The next day, the father was afraid to ask his son if he had found the marble. He was concerned that the boy's sincere faith would be hurt if he had not found the marble. The father gently asked: "did

you find the marble, son?' "No", the boy replied, "but God made me not to want to care about it any more."

**God has more ways to answer our prayers than simply saying "Yes" and granting our wish. There may be times when we pray about an issue or a concern and simply come to a place of peace about it.**

### **Saint of the Day, February 26 - St. Isabel of France and 7 other saints are remembered this day.**

Saint Isabel was born in 1271 to the King of Aragon, Spain. Baptized Elizabeth, after her great-aunt, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, she was known in her own country by the Spanish form of that name, Isabella. At 12 years of age, she was married to Denis, King of Portugal.

She divided her day between prayer and devotions, domestic duties, public affairs, service to others, especially to those in need. She sought out the poor and unfortunate to help them; and established institutions throughout her kingdom, especially hospitals and orphanages, to aid those she could not personally reach.

She continued to love and respect her husband, bearing his neglect and infidelity with great patience. Denis, though a good ruler, was a bad subject; just, brave, generous, and compassionate in public life, but in his private relations, selfish and extravagant. When he fell seriously ill, she was constantly at his bedside. It may well have been her prayers and faithful devotion that brought about his sincere repentance before his death some months later. Denis and Isabel had two children, Alfonso and Constance. Alfonso succeeded his father as King.

Though Isabel retired to live a life of simplicity in a small home, she was often called upon to settle disputes between the rulers of that day. Her gentle nature and ability to reconcile prevented a great deal of bloodshed. In fact she was on another errand of reconciliation when, overcome by age and the extreme heat, she died on July 4, 1336.

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