

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Forbearance is being firm, determined, steadfast, tenacious
and persevering in purpose.**

Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24

Jeremiah met with the opposition of the priests and the leaders. He boldly proclaimed that he was speaking in the name of the Lord and challenged them to reform their lives. The people listened to Jeremiah and put their faith in his word.

Psalm 69

**Rescue me out of the mire;
May I not sink!
May I be rescued from my foes,
And from the watery depths.**

Mathew 14:1-12

Herod heard about the reputation of Jesus and wondered whether this could be John the Baptist, who has risen from the dead. Herod feared John and respected him at the same time. It was as though he was haunted by the goodness of John and his own sinfulness at the same time. He was afraid!

Herod made a thoughtless and unwise choice. He acted on impulse, afraid of what people might think or say. He made a foolish oath and broke a great and noble law and had neither wisdom nor courage to admit and correct the error.

Herodias shows us what bitterness can do to a person. She was vindictive, immoral, unfaithful and out for revenge. She was, as we would call today, a child abuser...she abused her daughter, manipulated her and persuaded her to commit a crime against an innocent person, John the Baptist.

John the Baptist shows us what courage and faithfulness can do. His life also reveals to us the cost of such courage and faithfulness.

Reflect on the three characters and their qualities and get in touch with what they call forth from you.

Saint of the day, August 3 - St. Peter Julian Eymard and 11 other saints are remembered this day

Peter Julian Eymard was born on February 4, 1811 at La Mure, Isère in the French Alps. When his mother died in 1828 Julian resolved to enter the novitiate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and, despite his father's opposition, did so in June 1829. His first attempt as a seminarian ended because of serious illness. Throughout his life, he suffered from poor health, particularly 'weakness of the lungs' and migraine headaches.

After his father's death in 1831, he succeeded, with the help of his former superior, in gaining admission to the major seminary of the Grenoble diocese. On July 20, 1834, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Grenoble and was assigned as assistant pastor at the town of Chatte, and three years later, appointed pastor of Mount Saint-Eynard. He was dissatisfied with parish work and decided to join the Marists (the Society of Mary). On August 20, 1837, he entered the Society of Mary seminary at Lyon and made his profession in February 1840. He worked with lay organizations promoting devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Eucharist, particularly in the Forty Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He rose to the position of Provincial of the Society at Lyon in 1844.

After praying at the shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere on January 21, 1851, Peter Julian Eymard moved to establish a Marist community dedicated to eucharistic adoration. However, his desire to establish a separate fraternity promoting adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was not seen as part of the charism of the Marists. His superiors disapproved, transferring him to the Marist College at La Seyne-sur-Mer. Eventually, he resolved to leave the Society of Mary to begin his new religious congregation with the diocesan priest Raymond de Cuers. On May 13, 1856, the Paris bishops consented to his plans for a 'Society of the Blessed Sacrament'. After many trials, Peter Julian Eymard and Raymond de Cuers established public exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris on January 6, 1857.

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament began working with children in Paris to prepare them to receive their First Communion. It also reached out to non-practicing Catholics, inviting them to repent and begin receiving Communion again. Father Eymard established a common rule for the members of the society and worked toward papal approval. A second community was established in Marseille in 1859, and a third in Angers in 1862. Pope Pius IX granted a Decree of Approbation in June 1863. Peter Julian Eymard died on August 1, 1868 and was canonized on December 9, 1962 by Pope John XXIII.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs