

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Monday, Third Week of Advent**

**It is crucial to know your life purpose  
because it ultimately guides your characters and behaviors.**

## **Numbers 24:2-7; 15-17**

This excerpt tells us about the vision of Balaam that Israel would rise again. The Lord will bless Israel and make them a royal, noble people.....Kingdom of Israel will be established, and God will make it happen!

**Pray: May your kingdom come! May your will happen in our life!**

## **Psalms 25**

**Your ways O lord, make known to me;  
Teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
For you are God and my savior.**

## **Matthew 21: 23-27**

The Jewish authorities asked Jesus about his right to do what he has been doing. They questioned him on the source of his authority. He responded to them with a question rather than with an answer. He asked them whether John's ministry came from God or from men.....whether those who were immersed into Baptism in the Jordan were responding to God's call or to their human feelings.....

The authorities were afraid to answer and so remained silent.....after some time of silence, they answered, "we don't know". They should have known, but they claimed they didn't. They remained silent and then pretended ignorance because they were afraid, and it was the safest thing to say. They played it safe!

We are constantly challenged to take a stand. There are many issues and concerns in the world that need our honest response. Fear of consequences, fear of what others may think, etc. may prompt us to play it safe. This is what the questioners of Jesus did in the present incident. This is what Pilate did at the trial of Jesus. And this is what many of us do when it comes to taking a stand on issues. Let us take a stand and make a Christian response to the many issues that we face in our world today.

**Be strong! Be not afraid! Take a stand!**

**Saint of the day, December 15 - Saint Mary (Paula) Di Rosa and 10 other saints are remembered this day.**

Paola Francesca Di Rosa was born on November 6, 1813 in Brescia, Italy as one of nine children born to the rich industrialist Clemente Di Rosa and Countess Camilla Albani. She was educated by the Visitation Sisters in their convent in Brescia, but left school after her mother died in 1824. She began working in her father's large spinning mill in Acquafredda where she took notice of the working conditions. She became the manager when she turned nineteen and began caring for the female workers and devoted herself to looking after their material and spiritual needs which was something that her father encouraged her to do.

Her father began searching for suitors to have her married, but she turned each of them down. Mary Di Rosa was upset that her father did this and confessed her disappointment to the priest Faustino Pinzoni who then spoke to her father about his daughter's vocation to serve the Lord. Mary Di Rosa lived at home for the next decade increasing her involvement in various forms of social work.

Brescia suffered from a cholera epidemic in 1836 and Mary Di Rosa went to tend to the ill in the local hospital. It was also around this stage that she directed a home for mute and deaf women and in 1840 began gathering a small group of women that would later evolve into her future religious congregation. Her order became known as the Ancelle della carità and she later took her religious name, Mary Di Rosa and was vested in the habit after undergoing her formation and making her profession in 1852. Mary Di Rosa directed her order to caring for the poor as well the sick since those were the main focus of her religious apostolate. She died at a hospital in Brescia on December 15, 1855 after suffering from a prolonged illness.

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