

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Thursday, Fourth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Purposefulness is a dynamic and positive character trait that shows clarity of purpose, intentionality, and determination.**

### **Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24**

The author makes a contrast between the assembly of Israel gathered for the making of the Old Covenant and the assembly of those who have entered into the new covenant. He says, in this excerpt, "You are being drawn into the city of God, to a festival of angels, to the gathering of saints, to Jesus the mediator of the new Covenant and NOT to gloomy darkness or fearful place -." **Rejoice! Your call is to the festival of saints!**

### **Psalm 48**

**Great is the Lord and wholly to be praised,  
in the city of our God.  
His holy mountain, fairest of heights,  
is the joy of all the earth.**

### **Mark 6:7-13**

Jesus sent out the twelve to proclaim the reign of God - not to display what they had! They were to spread "good news" everywhere; They were not to force themselves on anyone; They were to move free, without possessions, without attachment to place or things or persons.....

**Reflect on your call to proclaim the presence of God's kingdom.....**

Do everything - all your service, all your ministry - to proclaim the presence of God's Kingdom.

Do not set out to acquire, to collect, to possess - but to give. The gift you have received, give as a gift freely and joyfully.....

Stay close to good and noble people and reach out to all.

Be agents and messengers of the good news of forgiveness and healing!

**Saint of the Day, February 6 – St. Paul Miki & Companions and 28 other saints are remembered this day.**

Paul Miki was born into the family of a rich Japanese military leader at Tounucumada, Japan. He had his education at the Jesuit college of Anziquiama. He joined the Jesuits in 1580 and began his education and formation to the priesthood. In 1587, Emperor Hideyoshi of Japan ordered the banishment of all Catholics, forcing the Jesuit missionaries to operate from hiding. In 1596, Hideyoshi rounded up twenty-six Christians. Miki was jailed along with other Christians. He and his Christian companions were forced to walk about 600 miles from Kyoto as a punishment for the whole community. On the way they sang the Te Deum, the Church's hymn of praise and thanksgiving. Finally, they arrived at Nagasaki, the city which had the most conversions to Christianity. Paul, still a Jesuit scholastic, at the age of 35, was crucified on February 5, 1597, along with 25 other Catholics.

While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: "The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."

Together with him died Santiago Kisai, also a Jesuit scholastic, and Diego Kisai (or Kizayemon), a Jesuit brother, in addition to 22 priests and lay people. This took place during the persecution of Christians under the Taiko, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who ruled Japan in the name of the emperor. All were canonized as the Martyrs of Japan by Pope Pius IX in 1862.

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