

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Care about doing your best, giving your best and being your best.
Don't care about the rest and you will find peace and serenity.**

Micah 7:14-15 & 18-20

Micah asks God to “shepherd” his people just as he did when he brought them from the land of Egypt. He speaks of God as a God of kindness and compassion and expresses his confidence in God’s faithfulness to his people.

Psalms 85

**You have favored, O Lord, your land;
You have restored the well-being of Jacob,
You have forgiven the guilt of your people;
You have covered all their sins.**

Matthew 12:46-50

Jesus was addressing the crowd when his mother and relatives came to speak with him. When someone told Jesus about it, he said, “who is my mother and who are my brothers.....whoever does the will of my Father is brother and sister and mother to me”.

Jesus spoke of a new kind of relationship...one that goes far beyond blood relationships. Nothing can break the “blood connection” and yet we know that “blood ties” don’t necessarily create a bond of love or dedication or affection. History has shown that often a man’s enemies were those with whom he had “blood ties”.

Real relationships, true connections, bonds of love are established around shared goals, shared ideals, shared conflicts and pains, shared cause, shared obedience/fidelity.....“covenantal bond”.

Jesus calls us to enter into a relationship of love and obedience....an obedience that binds us together as brothers and sisters of Jesus, sons and daughters of the heavenly Father. Our common obedience makes us true brothers and sisters.

Saint of the day, July 21 - St. Lawrence of Brindisi and 9 other saints are remembered this day.

Giulio Cesare Russo was born on July 22, 1559 in Brindisi, Kingdom of Naples, to a family of Venetian merchants. After the early death of his parents, he was raised by his uncle and educated at Saint Mark's College in Venice. He joined the Capuchins in Verona as Brother Lawrence. He received further instruction from the University of Padua. An accomplished linguist, in addition to his native Italian, Lawrence could read and speak Latin, Hebrew, Greek, German, Bohemian, Spanish, and French fluently. Lawrence was ordained a priest at the age of 23.

At the age of thirty-one, Lawrence was elected superior of the Capuchin Franciscan province of Tuscany. He was appointed definitor general to Rome for the Capuchins in 1596. Pope Clement VIII assigned him the task of preaching to the Jews in the city. He was sufficiently proficient in Hebrew that the rabbis assumed he had been a convert from Judaism. Beginning in 1599, Lawrence established Capuchin monasteries in modern Germany and Austria, furthering the Counter-Reformation and bringing many Protestants back to the Catholic faith.

In 1601, he served as the imperial chaplain for the army of Rudolph II, Holy Roman Emperor, and successfully recruited Philippe Emmanuel, Duke of Mercœur, to help fight against the Ottoman Turks. He then led the army during the brief liberation of Székesfehérvár in Hungary from the Ottoman Empire, armed only with a crucifix. In 1602, he was elected vicar general of the Capuchin friars, at that time the highest office in the Order. He was elected again in 1605, but refused the office. He entered the service of the Holy See, becoming papal nuncio to Bavaria. After serving as nuncio to Spain, he retired to a monastery in 1618. He was recalled as a special envoy to the King of Spain regarding the actions of the Viceroy of Naples in 1619, and after finishing his mission, died on his birthday on July 22, 1619 in Lisbon.

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