MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

(Albert Einstein)

Revelation 20:1-4, 11 – 21:2

In this vision, John sees the ancient dragon being chained and hurled into the abyss which is then closed and sealed. He saw the reign of Christ following the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment. He saw new heavens and the new earth. The communion and the celebration of the saints have begun.

Be confident. Be awake and alert and prepared! The Lord is breaking into your personal history!

Psalm 84

My soul yearns and pines
for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh
cry out for the living God.

Luke 21:29-33

Jesus had talked about the "Day of the Lord" and the terrible events that surround that day. He talked about what he himself had to face and what his disciples eventually would face. Hearing all this, the disciples wanted to know what they should do and what signs they should be looking for.

Jesus used familiar imageries of sun, moon, stars, gathering of clouds, budding fig tree, etc. to describe the reality of God breaking into history. Jesus encouraged them to recognize the coming of God in all happenings and not look for God in extra-ordinary events.

Be alert, stay awake and continue to fulfill the mission of Jesus in whatever situation you may be……...recognize the presence and movement of God in all you do!

Saint of the Day, November 27 - Saint Francesco Antonio Fasani and 39 other saints are remembered this day.

Francesco was born Giovanniello Fasani on August 6, 1681 in Lucera, in the Province of Foggia, then part of the Kingdom of Naples. He began his studies at the Conventual friary in his town and entered the Order there, taking the religious name Francesco and Antonio. After his ordination to the priesthood, he taught philosophy to younger friars, served as guardian of his friary, and later became provincial minister. When his term of office ended, Francesco became master of novices and finally pastor in his hometown.

In his various ministries, he was loving, devout, and penitential. He was a sought-after confessor and preacher. One witness at the canonical hearings regarding Francesco's holiness testified, "In his preaching he spoke in a familiar way, filled as he was with the love of God and neighbor; fired by the Spirit, he made use of the word and deed of holy Scripture, stirring his listeners and moving them to do penance." Francesco showed himself a loyal friend of the poor, never hesitating to seek from benefactors what was needed.

At his death in Lucera in 1742, children ran through the streets crying out, "The saint is dead! The saint is dead!" Francesco was canonized in 1986.

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