

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Thursday, Sixth Week of Easter**

**Gentleness, patience and forbearance go together.**

## **Acts 18:1-8**

Paul takes people into confidence and accepts their support in proclaiming the good news. With increasing opposition from the Jews, Paul began to turn to the Gentiles who welcomed him and many of them were baptized.

**Welcome and appreciate the support of others in your ministry!**

## **Psalms 98**

**Sing to the Lord a new song,  
For he has done wondrous deeds;  
His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.....**

## **John 16:16-20**

The Jews believed that all time was divided into two ages: the present age and the age to come. The present was all bad and the age to come was the golden age of God. Between the two ages was the coming of the Messiah who will bring in the new age. This "between two stages" was the Day of the Lord, a terrible day when the world would be shattered into fragments before the golden age is ushered in. This is what Jesus referred to when he spoke about the weeping and mourning, and grieving being turned into joy.

**Jesus looked beyond the present time to the age to come. He called his disciples to look beyond.....**

**Jesus proclaimed hope and promised the strength of the Holy Spirit during testing times. Times of trials will pass, and the Holy Spirit will empower you.**

**Faithful endurance will bring Blessings and Grace. See in trials and difficulties new opportunities, new possibilities. Stand strong in the Spirit of Jesus.**

**This too will pass! You will find joy again! The joy that the world gives passes away. The joy that Christ brings is lasting joy, not momentary pleasure.**

**The joy that Christ brings is not a "little bit of joy" or "better than", but complete and perfect. There is nothing lacking in this joy. This is the "Bliss" of the Beatitudes.**

## **Saint of the Day, May 9 - St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions and 52 other saints are remembered this day.**

Augustine Zhao Rong and his 119 companions, are the Martyr Saints of China. The 87 Chinese Catholics and 33 Western missionaries, from the mid-17th century to 1930, were martyred because of their ministry and, in some cases, for their refusal to apostatize. Many died in the Boxer Rebellion, in which anti-colonial peasant rebels slaughtered 30,000 Chinese converts to Christianity along with missionaries and other foreigners.

Christianity arrived in China by way of Syria in the 600s. Depending on China's relations with the outside world, Christianity over the centuries was free to grow or was forced to operate secretly. The 120 martyrs in this group died between 1648 and 1930. Eighty-seven of them were born in China, and were children, parents, catechists, or laborers, ranging in age from nine years to 72. This group includes four Chinese diocesan priests. The 33 foreign-born martyrs were mostly priests or women religious, especially from the Order of Preachers, the Paris Foreign Mission Society, the Friars Minor, Society of Jesus, Salesians of Don Bosco and Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Augustine Zhao Rong was a Chinese soldier who accompanied Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse of the Paris Foreign Mission Society to his martyrdom in Beijing. Not long after his baptism, Augustine was ordained as a diocesan priest. He was martyred in 1815. Beatified in groups at various times, these 120 martyrs were canonized together in Rome on October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

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