

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Twenty Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is the quiet confidence that comes from within.

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul tells the Corinthians that he is the least of the Apostles and that is only because of God's Grace. So, what he preaches, he says, is not himself or his own ideas. It is the Gospel of Jesus; it is the death and resurrection of Jesus that he proclaims. He says that he was giving the Corinthians what he had received as a generous and free gift from God.

Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
For his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever".

Luke 7:36-50

A Pharisee invited Jesus to dine with him. A woman known to be a sinner in town came and anointed his feet with perfumed oil. Jesus used this occasion to teach certain important values. One thing which shuts a person from relationships with God or with another is "self-sufficiency". When you are self-sufficient, you do not need another and then there is no need to relate.

The story of Simon the Pharisee and the sinful woman demonstrates a contrast between two attitudes - one of self-sufficiency and the other of a sense of need; one of being filled and the other of real hunger and blessed is the one who is hungry - "the hungry shall be satisfied"

A sense of sin, of incompleteness and of personal inadequacies makes it possible for a person to open himself/herself to GRACE. Self-righteousness closes the mind and the heart where no light can enter.

Be open. Be sensitive. Be aware of incompleteness. Be at ease with incompleteness. Keep hungering for the food that nurtures you into the eternal.

Saint of the Day, September 17 - St. Robert Bellarmine and 19 other saints are remembered this day

Robert Bellarmine was born on October 4, 1542, at Montepulciano, Italy. As a boy he knew Virgil by heart and composed a number of poems in Italian and Latin. One of his hymns, on Mary Magdalene, is included in the Roman Breviary. He entered the Roman Jesuit novitiate in 1560, remaining in Rome three years. He did his theological studies in Padua and Leuven where he was ordained a priest. He was the first Jesuit to teach at the university, where the subject of his course was the Summa Theologica of Thomas Aquinas. His residency in Leuven lasted seven years. In poor health, in 1576 he made a journey to Italy. Here he remained, commissioned by Pope Gregory XIII to lecture on polemical theology in the new Roman College, now known as the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Robert Bellarmine was made rector of the Roman College in 1592, examiner of bishops in 1598, and cardinal in 1599. Immediately after his appointment as Cardinal, Pope Clement made him a Cardinal Inquisitor, in which capacity he served as one of the judges at the trial of Giordano Bruno, and concurred in the decision which condemned Bruno to be burned at the stake as a heretic. In 1602 he was made archbishop of Capua. As bishop he put into effect the reforming decrees of the Council of Trent. He retired to the Jesuit college of St. Andrew in Rome, where he died on September 17, 1621.

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